

find. Unfortunately they are languishing in abject poverty and there is none to look after them. Some of these Sanskrit scholars possess very old and valuable hand-written manuscripts.

Government of India should send a team of experts to Mithila to locate these scholars with the help of local administration, procure these manuscripts and make arrangements for their publication. Special efforts should also be made to ameliorate the lot of these scholars. Sufficient funds should be given to Bihar for Sanskrit scholars.

- (ii) Demand for taking steps to modernise the Government Opium and Alkaloid Works, Ghazipur (U.P.) and save it from closure in the interest of workers.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur): The Government Opium and Alkaloid Works at Ghazipur (U.P.) is more than 100 years old. There are about 600 workers who are working in the said factory and a large number of farmers are engaged in the production of opium. It has been reported that this factory is going to be closed on the orders of the environmental authorities. It has been alleged that the water discharge from the factory is polluting the river Ganga.

12.11 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The environmental authorities have been insisting for long for the installation of anti-pollution devices at the factory but the management is ignoring their repeated directions. The workers and the farmers are suffering.

The management is not taking desired steps for the modernisation of this factory. More than Rs. 50 crores were sanctioned about three years back for the modernisation of the factory, but it appears that nothing has been done in this matter. I fear that there

is a conscious conspiracy on the part of the management to close this factory for ever.

There is an apprehension in the minds of workers and farmers due to the recent orders of the environmental authorities. The Mill management has installed a temporary device of anti-pollution in the factory.

I urge upon the Finance Minister to give immediate attention to this matter so that the factory is not closed, anti-pollution devices as per the suggestion of the environmental authorities are installed and the factory is fully modernised and expanded.

- (iii) Demand for re-starting the closed Textile Mills in Bombay and steps to prevent further closure of like Mills.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): On the last Republic Day three more textile mills in Bombay named Swan Mill (Kurla), Swan Mill (Seewari) and Swan Process (Sewari) have been suddenly closed making a total of 12 textile mills which have been closed in Maharashtra rendering nearly 25,000 textile workers unemployed. Further, three mills, two of Khatau and one of Raghuvanshi in Bombay are also facing closure. Efforts should be made by the Government to re-start the closed mills and to take preventive action regarding further closures.

- (iv) Demand for Sending a Central team to Orissa to assess intensity of drought in Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of the State and suggest remedial measures.

SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA (Bolangir): Scanty and erratic rainfall this year has created a severe drought situation in Bolangir and part of Kalahandi district in Orissa and people there have no means or morale to face more severe and extensive drought this year. The rural economy has collapsed, rural indebtedness has become too heavy, unemployment position is ex-