

12.14 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair.*]

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

[*English*]

**Reported attempt of Management of Delhi Cloth
Mills to close its textile mills rendering
several thousand workers jobless**

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) :
I call the attention of the Minister of Labour
to the following matter of urgent public
importance and request that he may make
a statement thereon :

Situation arising out of the reported at-
tempt of the Management of Delhi Cloth
Mills to close its textile mills rendering
several thousand workers jobless and the
action taken by the Government in regard
thereto.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T.
ANJIAH) : M/s Delhi Cloth Mills, Delhi, is
one of the composite textile units in Delhi.
It belongs to the DCM Limited and employs
6109 workers. The categorywise details of
these workers are as follows :

Permanent workers	4388
Badlis	1317
Temporary workers	328
Trainees	76

Total	6109

According to the Delhi Administration,
the management of M/s Delhi Cloth Mills
submitted an application on the 27th March,
1985 for permission for closure of the textile
units with effect from the 1st July, 1985.
This application has been submitted as per
the provision of the Section 25 (O) of the
Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982.
Delhi Administration has examined the
reasons given by the management for closure,
with regard to their genuineness and
adequacy and came to the conclusion that
the intended closure was not desirable in

public interest and the reasons advanced by
the management were inadequate to justify
the same. Accordingly the Delhi Adminis-
tration has refused permission for closure of
the mills in public interest under Section
25 (O) of the Industrial Disputes (Amend-
ment) Act, 1982. The Delhi Administration
has also reported that the closure of the unit
would render approximately 6,000 workers
jobless and adversely effect thousands of
their family members. It would be illegal
for the management to resort to closure. I
would like to assure the House that the
Delhi Administration is seized of the
situation and would take all possible steps
to avert the closure.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : It has
already been mentioned in the statement of
the hon. Minister that if the DCM Mill
is allowed to close down, it will render
more than 6,000 workers jobless and thou-
sands of others, who are indirectly relying
on it, will also be adversely affected. It is
stated in the Minister's reply that the Delhi
Administration has refused permission to
close this mill. The Statement of the
Minister does not say anything about the
sanction given by the DDA and the Work
and Housing Ministry to commercially
develop the land and also why this land is
exempted from the urban land ceiling limits.
In spite of these things, the Company insists
on closing down.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER (Delhi
Sadar) : Who gave this permission ?

SHRI SURESH KURUP : It was on
27th of March that the workers were give
notice by the Management that they were
going to close down the factory. Months
before that some behind the scene activity
was going on between the Management, the
DDA authorities and the Works and Housing
Ministry and about all this the workers and
their trade union leaders were completely
kept in dark. But on the morning of 27th
March the workers were informed that they
were going to close down the factory. One
of the reasons put forward by the Manage-
ment for closing down this factory is that
this factory is situated in a non-conforming
area. This is cited in relation to the Delhi
Master Plan, which has been there for more

than-nearly three decades. There are thousands of other such factories in Delhi which are also situated in this non-conforming area. Moreover this Master Plan has already become a defunct document. A new notification has already been issued regarding a new Master Plan. Keeping all these things in view, I am at a loss to understand why the Delhi Development Authority and the Works and Housing Ministry now suddenly realised that this pioneer cloth mill—DCM—is situated in a non-conforming area? They have not said anything about other such mills.

The Management also put forward another argument that because it is situated in the non-conforming area no process of modernisation can be undertaken. But the fact is that renewals, rehabilitation and modernisation of the plant and machinery in the DCM unit have been going on and the plants and machinery and other equipment are in a reasonable, modernised shape. Also, the statement submitted by the Company shows that income from the sales of the products from the mill has also been going up. The statement clearly shows that.

As I said earlier what the Minister conceals in the Statement is the sanction given to the DCM to commercially develop the land. This land, on which the mill and its adjacent workers' colony is situated is 64 acres in area. I do not know on what basis the DDA has given sanction for the DCM to commercially develop this land and on what basis it has been exempted from the urban Land Ceilings Act. You cannot blame anyone, if the people doubt that some behind the scene activities were there and have been going on between the higher ups of the Government and the Mill. This land is worth crores of rupees.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Thousand Crores of rupees.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Between Rs. 800 and 1000 crores, that is right. This land which is situated in the Bara Hindu Rao area is worth crores of rupees and I charge the Government and I charge the persons who are responsible for this, the Works and Housing Ministry—the DDA is

under this Ministry—that behind the scene activities are there and much corruption is there. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am not naming any one now. *(Interruptions)*

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I do not know how the authorities dared to exempt these people from all these laws.

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L.
BHAGAT) :**

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It is absolutely false and baseless. I am completely with the hon. Member, I am for not allowing them any permission for the D.C.M. to be shifted or for their land use to be changed. I am completely one with him. I have always been of this opinion, I have never dealt directly or indirectly with this matter at all. It is very unfortunate that the Member has chosen to say this without giving notice to you, without giving notice to me, and therefore, in fairness, what he has said should be expunged.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Any charge like this cannot come on record.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Under the rules he cannot cast any as person against any body directly or indirectly without giving notice, for any man in higher authority cannot do it under the rules. This must be expunged completely.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Of course, it should be expunged.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : This kind of propaganda is carried on outside the House. It is a ridiculous thing.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First of all you are making an allegation. Also you have not given any notice regarding this. So, this cannot be allowed to go on record. This can be expunged.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : It cannot come on record at all.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, allow me to go on record that if the Government is ready to make a full inquiry.....

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, you expunge the name, don't expunge.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. If the Minister says so, I can't allow.

It has to be expunged.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP :

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Also one astonishing, shocking thing is the Labour Department of the Delhi Administration which should have been informed right from the beginning about this move was completely kept in the dark, and it was asked to obey the decision arrived at by the management of the D.D.A. and Works and Housing Ministry to close the mill. Again, the management is still insisting that. They are going to close down, because there is permission from the D.D.A.

H. K. L. BHAGAT : Don't forget that I was only a Minister of State at that time. There was a Cabinet Minister before me. And the matter never came before the Minister.

I am completely one with you on this issue. I am 100% one with you.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : The company is still insisting that it is going to close down. The sanction of the DDA is there exempting them from the Urban Land Ceiling Limit and allowing them to develop the land commercially. Now, I want to know specifically from the Minister as follows :

- (a) On what basis, the DCM management was given permission to commercially develop the land and also the basis on which the exemp-

tion was given from the operation of Urban Land Ceiling Act ?

- (b) Is the Government ready to conduct an enquiry into the whole deal and is the Government prepared to lay on the Table, the correspondence between the DCM management and DDA and also with the Works and Housing Ministry ?
- (c) On what date, the Labour Department was informed of the move and what reply has the Labour Department given ?
- (d) If the management insist on closing down the mill and in case the mill is closed down, is the Government ready to take over the management of the mill ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

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SHRI G. G. SWELL (Sillong) : What is going on, Sir, We would like to hear the speech of the Labour Minister first. The Labour Minister is here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you want to add anything, you can do so later.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) : if the Works and Housing Minister wants to say something, he should be allowed to say It.

[Translation]

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement of the hon. Member that the DCM plan has been sanctioned by the Delhi Development Authority, is not correct, because one should realise that so many other things are to come under a Master Plan such as this. It is not a question of implementing the entire Master Plan. If such a Master Plan is implemented so many factories will have to be shifted resulting in more unemployment.

Master Plan is not prepared for Delhi only. It is prepared for every part of the

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

country. Master Plan is there for each place in each State. This Master Plan cannot be implemented unless an agreement is reached between the unions and the managements. Therefore, we shall have to ignore this. I have requested Government also to do so. My Colleague Shri Ghafoor, who is present here should also ignore it. If the management still insists then the Textile Department under the charge of the Minister of Textiles, who is present here, should take over the mill. There should not be any difficulty in it because it is an important matter involving the fate of 6000 people. The shifting of the factory, as proposed by the management, is not so easy a job. The owners of the textile mill are trying to shift the mill by putting forth an excuse. They have been earning huge profits. What was their financial position earlier and what is their financial position now? I, therefore, think that the type of action proposed is a criminal one. We have discussed it with the Administration and with the Lt. Governor also. We have requested them that if the management insists on it, Government should ignore it and initiate steps to take over this mill. Our Ministry will provide whatever help it is possible for us to give. We can run it by selling the land also. If they cannot run it, we shall run it. I have to say this much only.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: My question is not answered. You should permit me. My specific question is on what basis the DCM management was given permission to commercially develop the land and also the basis on which the exemption was given from Urban Land ceiling limit.

Two or three questions of mine have not been answered.

[Translation]

SHRI T. ANJIAH: They have said that only conditional permission has been given. But it does not matter whether it is conditional or unconditional. In fact, there is no need to accord sanction to that plan. In the first instance, it has to be seen how far the management is going and what it proposes to do. We have taken all these things into

consideration and have come to the conclusion that the argument of the management for shifting the mill does not appear to be tenable. Until an agreement is reached between the workers and the management, the question of shifting it does not arise.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): When Delhi Cloth Mills commenced its operation at the end of last century, it was a very tiny and small manufacturing units. But since its inception, it has yielded fantastic results to the company. This joint textile mill is perhaps the biggest in this part of the country. This joint monopoly house of the DCM has sales amounting to Rs. 200 crores and currently it produces nearly 5,000 metres of yarn and 8,000 metric tonnes of cloth annually and its export commitments for the period ending May, 85 are of the order of 25 lakh metres of printed fabrics and 4 lakh metres of printed tapestry. Rehabilitation and modernisation or and renovation are also going on annually. Income from the sales of the products of the units has also been constantly going up. Sales went up from Rs. 2,299.22 lakhs in 1981 to Rs. 2,928.13 lakhs in 1982 and it has increased to Rs. 3,645.40 lakhs in 1984. Thus the sales registered an increase of 50% within a period of four years. There has been a drastic reduction of labour complement also over the last four years with the result that the relation of wages of workmen to the total cost of production was only 18% in 1982 which came down to 15% in the year, 1984 against the usual percentage of 25 to 29% in the textile industry. In spite of that, why the management wants to close down such economically viable mill is not known. The Delhi Master Plan was implemented long before in 1966 but never this issue came up. In the year, 1981 the management took a decision to shift the mill to Narela and they sent a proposal to the Government for allotting then 200 acres of land there and perhaps in February, 1983 the Delhi Administration allowed the Delhi Cloth Mills management to use the land for commercial purposes. On 14th November, just a fortnight after the assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister, an order was issued by the Delhi Administration exempting the mill management from the provision of

[Shri Basudeb Acharia]

the Urban Land Ceiling Act. This order, in a way, permitted the management to construct a commercial complex and a flat on that land and to shift or close down the existing economically and commercially viable textile mill. You know the condition of textile mills in our country. The Commerce Minister is here. There are as many as 400 textile mills which are closed down ; in the year 1984, as many as 151 textile mills were closed down.

Then the negotiation was conducted in very strict secrecy. Even the Unions—there were the Unions of CITU, AITUC and the two factions of the INTUC—did not know anything about this deal. After 14th November, the management became active, and by the end of march they issued letters to the employees and they sent a letter to the Delhi Administration seeking permission under the section 25 of the Industrial Disputes Act because prior approval has to be sought before declaring a mill closed. The Delhi Administration at that time rejected their proposal ; they did not allow the management to close down the mill. Now, the management is trying to close down the mill as they had done in Hissar in Haryana last year ; that mill was also a very big textile mill and last year closure was declared ; and thousands of workers were thrown out of employment. The same tactics, they are trying to adopt here also. Therefore, I would like to ask this question. The Labour Minister is here ; the Works and Housing Minister is here ; the Commerce Minister is also here ; the Textiles Minister is also here. We want to know from the Government whether it is not a fact that the most important government agency, whose assent to any change affecting the conditions of employment of labour is necessary, which has the final say in terms of statute, the Department of Labour, was totally ignorant all the time. The Labour Department was never consulted when the deal was conducted. We want to know whether Government will revoke or withdraw the approval given by the DDA for re-development of the land occupied by the DCM and the attached workers quarters as well as the exemption obtained by the company from the operation of the Urban Land Ceiling Act. We want a categorical answer

from the Government whether they are going to revoke or withdraw the permission given to the management of the Delhi Cloth Mills. In case the company chooses to violate the decision of the statutory authority, that is, the Labour Department of the Delhi Administration, and persists in the move for closure, will the Government of India take over the management and run the mill in order to save the thousands and thousands of workers and the members of their families. We also want to know whether the Government is going to institute an inquiry into how the deal was conducted, who gave the permission to use the land for commercial purposes, and the exemption from the operation of Urban Land Ceiling Act. May I know whether government is going to institute an inquiry as to who gave this permission and why exemption was granted. We want categorical answers from the Ministers concerned.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : After having heard what the hon. Member have said here and having come to know from the press reports, I am also surprised how the DDA took such an important decision without taking the Ministry of Works and Housing into confidence and as to when they took this action. Of course, we are also sensing some foul play in it. As all of you know, the D.D.A. is a Pandora's Pox in spite of our best efforts to know what is going on in various parts of Delhi, some mischief or the other is done. I admit that decision taken in regard to a major company like D.C.M. is very crucial. If such a company is required to be shifted under the Master Plan, all other companies situated in various parts of Delhi should also be covered under such a proposal and a decision in that regard taken after taking the public into confidence. Since the entire thing has happened in a clandestine manner, I shall get the entire matter enquired into. A high-powered committee shall be set up for the purpose consisting of the representatives of the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Works and Housing.

[English]

SHRI JAI PARKASH AGARWAL :
The question is how the permission was given. There are so many officers involved in it.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Pleased sit down. I have already called the next Member. Please sit down.

[Interruptions]**

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN (South Delhi) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Delhi Cloth Mills was started about 100 years ago with an investment of Rs. 7 lakhs only. With that meagre amount of Rs. 7 lakhs, the owners of this Mill have earned such huge profits that now they are one of the ten top-most capitalists of the country. Crores of rupees have been earned through this Mill every year and that amount is siphoned off to other factories and mills, showing deliberately loss in this factory, with a view to strike at the rights of the workers. The most important fact is this that 90 per cent of the money invested in this mill has been taken as advance from the Government, the financial institutions or the banks. The owners of this mill want to earn black money by using hundreds of crores of rupees taken from Government. I do not want to name any company here but I am at a loss to understand how such a situation is prevailing while more than 50 per cent of the share capital of the company belong to the financial institution and only six per cent of the investment has been made by the owners of this Mill. These mill-owners have by misusing the public money advanced by the financial institutions and by indulging in misappropriation and by bribing DDA officials.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No.

** Not recorded.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : What do you mean by saying "No"? It is a big scandal.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : He has not named anybody.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Let them go and see the Mills. Let them see what the condition there is.

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a file with me.....(Interruptions)... Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please listen to me, Let me speak.....

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Maken, please listen to me. When I speak, you please sit down. If you speak without my permission, nothing will go on record. When you are mentioning some authorities, when you are making some accusations, you are doing it without permission. You cannot do it. I am sorry you cannot make.

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : What I have said is correct, I have not mentioned the name of any person.

[English]

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :
Please read May's *Parliamentary Practice*.

It is not unparliamentary. It is no contrary to rule of the House ; it is perfectly in order.

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Kindly let me speak, I am raising a general matter.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Under what rule do you prevent the company from being accused? May I know what is the rule?

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not naming anybody, I am not speaking against anybody. It is not against any person.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It should be substantiated ; that is the rule.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : You may please read May's *Parliamentary Practice*.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Before I proceed further, I would like to demand that the financial institutions should have their own directors in the management of the DDA & also as has been done in respect of various companies because more than 50 per cent of the total investment in the DDA belongs to the financial institutions.

Now I come to the main point. I have a file with me. It contains a statement. It is not my statement, but a statement made by the Delhi Cloth Mills, seeking permission from the Lt. Governor. I would like to point out the facts which are based on whatever has been mentioned in this file. They have referred to the Master Plan. I am unable to understand it that the Master Plan was prepared in 1966, while it was in 1981 that the Director of Industries had for the first time written a letter asking the management to shift the factory. The DDA remained in slumber for 19 years and did not write even a single letter regarding the necessity of shifting it. Suddenly the DDA felt that it was to be shifted and that a letter should be written to that effect. I would like to know the reasons for which the DDA remained silent for 19 years and did not point out that the Mill was situated in a non-conforming area. If the plan as such is implemented then not only the Delhi Cloth Mills but all other factories of a similar nature running in non-conforming areas would have to be closed down and lakhs of workers would become jobless. This fact I would like to mention.

Further, I would like to point out that the management of the Delhi Cloth Mills committed a serious fraud on December, 1981. On that date, the management wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Works and Housing Department of the Government of India. I am not saying it on my own behalf but it has been recorded in this file. If you permit me, I am prepared to place this file on the Table of the House. It is not my statement. In this file they have stated that this land should be declared commercial so that they could get funds to spend on the shifting of the Mill and thus the Mill could be saved. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, kindly note this point carefully. The basic point is that they want to shift the mill because the DDA is asking them to shift the mill. Money is required for shifting the mill, so this land should be declared commercial. If this land is declared commercial, then they will get crores of rupees and that amount can be utilised for shifting the mill. At the instance of the management, this land was declared commercial. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the land was declared commercial, the management of the Delhi Cloth Mills stated that the mill was incurring losses and that they were unable to run the mill. The permission for commercial use of the land granted on the understanding that the several of crores of rupees accruing as a result of the establishment of a private factory and the housing complex would be spent on this mill. But once they have for the permission they have declared closure of the mill. On the plea that they are unable to run the mill since it is incurring losses.

After that, on June 1, the Director of Industries wrote a letter asking the managements to shift the mill. A meeting was held on 6th June. It is not my statement but of those who have written the letter. On the 1st June, the Director of Industries wrote a letter asking them to shift the mill. On 6th June, a meeting was held with the Director of Industries. The management contended that they were prepared to shift the mill to Narela. When the Director of Industries ordered that the mill should be shifted to Narela and also Delhi Cloth Mill agreed to shift the mill on 6th June, then how is it that the D.D.A. on 15th July, 1983 wrote a letter stating that such a big industry was not permitted to be established in Delhi. I

would like to know whether the decision regarding permissibility or otherwise of establishing big industries is to be taken by the Director of Industries or the DDA? What was the reason for this contradiction, between the two authorities? It is not a contradiction actually but a big scandal, a fraud, towards which I would like to draw your attention. The case has been deliberately made like this so that if the matter is taken to a court of law in future the Delhi Cloth Mill could take the plea that no option was left for them except to close down the Mill.

On the 6th June, the Vice Chairman of the DDA wrote a letter, I do not want to mention his name.

[English]

“Shifting is inevitable.”

[Translation]

Thus a ground has been prepared for showing that shifting is inevitable. This statement was made by the DDA on 6th June, 1982. After that on 1st February, 1983 a technical committee gave its formal approval to the proposal. The technical committee submitted a report that a flatted factory should be established there and a housing Complex should be constructed. Thus a formal Resolution was passed to the effect that the report of the Technical Committee was feasible and permission should be given to set up flatted factory and housing complex there. The permission to that effect was given to them on 1st February 1983. In other words, the permission to commercialise it was given to them. When the permission was given and the area was declared commercial, on 15th July, the DDA wrote a letter stating that the alternative land could not be given to them because it was not permissible to set up such a big industry in Delhi. What is the nature of this scandal. It is like this that first a ground was prepared to shift the Mill. After that, when it was proposed to shift the mill the land was declared commercial. After that it was argued that no industry could be set up in Delhi and therefore, the factory had to be closed down.

I would like to point out that if the management of the DCM moves the Court and before that this Resolution is not scrapped, then no authority in the world can close down the Delhi Cloth Mills. The management of the Delhi Cloth Mills will take this plea that DDA had asked them to shift the mill. The management is prepared to shift but DDA is not prepared to provide them with land. Therefore, they are bound to close down the mill. It is a matter of surprise that on the 6th June, 1982, the DDA should have asked the management to shift the mill and on the 15th July, they should say that they would not permit the management to set up the industry in Delhi. It is the biggest scandal and fraud.

I would like to say with all responsibility that the officers of the DDA had made out this case taking illegal gratification of lakhs of rupees from the Delhi Cloth Mill in such a way that if the management of the Mill moved the Court then it could get the court judgement in its favour and the Mill could be closed down.

Now we take the case of exemptions. In Delhi, wherever the DDA finds any vacant land, it puts up a signboard there indicating that the land belongs to the DDA. I am at a loss to understand how so many acres of land which were lying vacant in Bara Hindurao had been formally exempted. It is surprising that in the records of the DDA it was never stated how much land had been exempted. The DDA always argues that a piece of land which comes within the ceiling may be exempted. But it never specifies how much area of land falls within the ceiling and how much land will be exempted. Land worth crores of rupees should have been acquired by the DDA and a labour colony should have been constructed there, quarters should have been constructed there for the workers, but the officers of the DDA accepting illegal gratification of lakhs of rupees had exempted that land and that land thus is not owned by the DDA. After that the Resolution was passed on 1st February, 1983. Five days after that incident, elections to the Metropolitan Council were due to be held in Delhi. I would like to know what compelled the DDA to pass such a Resolution five days before the elections. The DDA know it very well that after five days,

[Shri Lalit Maken]

an elected body would come into existence and the representatives of that body would not allow such a Resolution to be passed. It is the biggest scandal. After five Days, that is on the 6th February, 1983, elections to the Metropolitan Council were held and on the 1st February all the files were asked to be put up and a meeting was called hurriedly. This matter was thus cleared by having a resolution passed and declaring the land as commercial; and it was ordered that a factory and commercial houses should be constructed there. It happened because they knew it full well that if the elected representatives of the people came in the field, they would not allow the mill to be closed down. Thus it is the biggest fraud. I do not want to refer to the Housing Committee but I want to point out that this is a scandal involving crores of rupees and I demand that the Ministry of Works and Housing should institute CBI inquiry against the officers of the DDA so that the reality is made known to the people.

Apart from this, there is another matter connected with shifting. Some days back I had raised in this House an issue regarding Shriram Food and Fertilisers. It is interesting to note that that is also a sister concern of the DCM. The Labour Commissioner has reported that Shriram Food and Fertilisers could cause a greater tragedy than that caused by the factory at Bhopal. But the Hon. Minister in his reply the other day has stated that this factory cannot be shifted. It is surprising that this textile mill which does not pose any danger can be shifted whereas that factory which could be dangerous cannot be shifted. What is the policy of this Government? Last year, 40 children while passing on the road along Shriram Food and Fertilisers had become unconscious because of the Chlorine gas coming out from that factory. It is such a dangerous factory and the Labour Commissioner has also reported that this unit would remain a dangerous one even in spite of numerous safety measures, being taken. A more dangerous situation than that of Bhopal could occur on account of this factory and lakhs of people might lose their lives in Delhi in such a situation. But the hon. Minister has stated that this factory cannot be shifted. The textile mill, which is not dangerous in any way the Chemicals used by this Mill not being dangerous and during

the last 100 years no person having been killed or become unconscious as a result of the chemicals used in the Mill—is proposed to be shifted. On the other hand, Shriram Food and Fertilisers which is using caustic soda, which is most dangerous, is proposed to be expanded by the concerned authorities, i. e. the DDA and the Delhi Administration. Thus the Caustic Soda Plant of that Mill is being allowed to be expanded while on the other hand the Management of DCM is being asked to shift the factory, to close it down. What is this policy of the Government? I would like to demand that it should specifically be made clear whether the Government and the officers of the DDA have decided to bring six thousand workers on the road; whether they have decided to ruin the families of those workers.

I would like to make it clear that this issue is not limited to the Delhi Cloth Mills alone. If the DCM is closed down, then the owners of the Birla Mill will argue that their Mill is also situated in the non-confirming area and that they want to close down the Mill. Then the owners of Swatantra Bharat Mill will also take the same plea for the closure of their Mill. Then the DCM Silk Mills will also demand the closure of the Mill. In this way, this is not a problem of 6000 workers only. 50,000 other workers working in textile mills and the members of their families will have to face starvation in this way. Besides the workers of the Mill, there is a DCM colony where more than 2000 families have been living and there are 300 shops. Thus there is a population of 40 to 50 thousand people. If all these houses and shops are demolished, where would the population of 50,000 living there for more than 100 years be rehabilitated? I would like to know from the Minister of Works and Housing specifically whether this matter in which officers of the DDA have committed irregularities deliberately and earned lakhs of rupees illegally will be handed over to the CBI for proper investigation.

So far as the question of Resolutions is concerned, there are two Resolutions one is the February 1983 in which the land had been declared commercial, and the second use is of 6th June, 1983 in which it had been stated that "shifting is inevitable". Will the

Hon. Minister categorically announce that he will instruct the DDA to cancel or withdraw these Resolution? This is my second question.

Thirdly, I would like to know whether the Minister of Works and Housing would issue instructions to the DDA that the concerned department which committed this irregularity by exempting the land instead of acquiring it under the Ceiling Act, should acquire the same land properly and construct quarters on if the workers?

Fourthly, will Government issue an Ordinance laying down that if the Delhi Cloth Mills management insists on closing down the Mill and does not withdraw that step, then the owners of the Mill will be liable to be punished with imprisonment and the workers will be saved, as had been done in the case of Gujarat last year when the owners of the Gujarat Textile Mills had decided to close down the Mills? The Government of India had then issued an Ordinance and declared therein that if the owners insisted on closing down the mills they would be put behind the bars and the workers would be saved.....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has said so many things ; and what has been said by the Housing Minister himself shows that there is some bungling. The hon. Minister has said that the matter will be investigated.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : I have categorically asked whether the CBI inquiry would be held.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Inquiry is to be conducted by the CBI as well as higher officers and a high-power committee.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : No purpose will be served by an inquiry at a lower level. I want an assurance from the Hon. Minister. It is not a matter of a meagre amount of Rs. 200 or 400. Crores of rupees are involved in it I would like to know, therefore, whether the CBI inquiry will be held or not? This matter may please be referred to the CBI or any other higher authority, if any.

SHRI T. ANJIAH : From the exemption given to the management regarding this factory, it appears that there is certainly some sort of fraud. The way in which things are manipulated in the name of Master Plan, is unfair and the position of Labour Department has become very awkward by this action. It has been sandwiched. This Department is not consulted before taking any action. The hon. Housing Minister has given a reply that will be appreciated that it will be revoked, and then the inquiry will be held. If it is not revoked, then they can take other please.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : The hon. Minister should tell us when these Resolutions will be revoked, because they are going to move the court. It is a very sensitive matter. I would like to point out that if they go to court then the matter will become more complicated. The Resolutions should be revoked within 24 hours. According to the information available to me they are going to move the court on Monday. Therefore, these should be revoked today. If both the Resolutions are not revoked, the situation can worsen (*Interruptions*).....

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Sir, so many things have been said here, but something should be left for me also to say Many things have been said but neither I can do anything nor can the Labour Minister do anything. The DDA is a separate authority and the Labour Minister and Works and Housing Minister are independent in their fields. The hon. Member has asked in to put the culprits behind the bars. It requires the attention of the Prime Minister also. All these things cannot be clubbed together at one place. As for as my responsibility is concerned I shall discharge it.

SARI LALIT MAKEN : The main duty is yours.....

.....(*Interruptions*).....

This should be done forthwith.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : It is not fair to put questions in the House one by one in order to get the things accepted when the hon. Member has said, I have heard. Now let me do things in my own way.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, although the Delhi Administration has already made it clear that permission will not be given for closing down the DCM, yet no body is ready to believe it. In the whole of Delhi no body is believing that the Delhi Cloth Mills would not be closed down. It is heard that the management of the DCM has issued the notice to the workers to complete their jobs. They have made preparations to implement their commercial plan.

I would like to draw the attention of the Labour Minister as well as the Works and Housing Minister to the fact that although they have announced clearly that permission would not be given to close down the Delhi Cloth Mills and, if so necessary Government would take over the Delhi Cloth Mills, yet what has happened in the DDA is a very serious scandal which has already been referred to by the Members who spoke before me. I welcome the announcement made by the Works and Housing Minister regarding the holding of an enquiry. Now, I think with this announcement the confusion created in the minds of people would be removed to some extent. This confusion was existing in the minds of the people even after the denial by the Delhi Administration regarding closing down the Mill. Now the people, particularly the employees of the DCM will feel much relief.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, would like to put only one question. Several questions have been asked and the hon. Minister has replied to them. I feel the main motive behind these developments is like this. Is it not that attempts are being made to create an issue in which the management may try to close down the mill and Government would not agree to close down that mill? After that, negotiations might be held and the mill may be permitted to be established outside Delhi, and on the land measuring 64 acres, a commercial complex will be constructed and in this way more and more money will be earned. According to my guess and that of others, it is expected that Rs. 1000 crores will be earned by constructing commercial complex there, while on establishing a mill outside Delhi, half of that amount only would be spent and thus Rs. 500 to 600 crores will be sowed as profit.

May I know whether some activities for such bargaining are going on behind the scene? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any proposal has been received from them that the mill is proposed to be shifted outside Delhi and a commercial complex for which they have obtained permission from the DDA will be constructed at the present site? If such a proposal has been received by Government from them, what is the reaction of Government thereto? I would also like to point out that once such a policy is adopted, then other big cities will also be affected. In the big cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore, etc. the running of factories is costly. In these places to run a factory is not remunerative because the price of the land on which these factories are constructed gone very high. If that land is developed for commercial complex and is sold out, the owners would get huge profits and factories could be set up outside the cities with less cost as compared to the amount which could be earned by developing that land for commercial purposes and selling it. This is the situation in Calcutta, Madras and Bangalore and in all other big cities. In view of the fact that the prices of land are rising abnormally, I am convinced that Government will not allow the mill to be closed down and if they insist on doing so, then Government would take over the mill and institute an enquiry in this case of fraud and see that the culprits are punished. But I sense some foul game behind all these things. Ultimately, the DCM will seek some negotiated settlement namely that the management should be allowed to set up the mill outside Delhi and that land should be commercially developed and sold out. In this way they will earn huge profits. If such an offer has been received by Government from them, I would like to know the reaction of the hon. Minister and the Government thereto.

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what the hon. Member has just now, has already been stated earlier. It may be correct that there is some motive behind these things. You know that this plan has been sanctioned hurriedly and the hon. Minister for Housing has also assured that it would be required into. Only Yesterday, our Prime Minister addressing a rally said that Government was against

closures and lock-outs. It had been our policy and the Prime Minister had reiterated it yesterday. We, therefore, always follow and implement that policy and the Housing Minister has stated that an enquiry would be held in this matter. It is not possible to implement the Master Plan immediately. Unless it is in the interest of the country to shift a mill, it will not be shifted, whether it is the case of Bombay or any other big city. If any probability of an incident like the Bhopal tragedy occurring is there then the shifting of that factory could be considered. But there is no such danger posed by this factory. This is not a factory which should be shifted from the safety point of view. It is no use asking for more details. When the enquiry is held, all the details will be worked out. The mill owners have created a strange situation. Now they are demanding that the sick mills taken over by the Textile Corporation should be given back to them. Some people are demanding this. Five or Six mills have regained their viability and now the mill-owners are demanding that the mills should be restored to them but on the other hand some are closing down their mills. Thus a strange situation is there. I suggest that a condition should be imposed on the managements of such mills that closure could never be resorted to because the question of closure should not arise. When a mill is to be closed down, why should they seek licence for that? There should be no question of closure after taking the licence. There is a history of hundred years behind this mill. The mill has earned a lot and I feel Government will never tolerate its closure.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we take up matters under Rule 377.

[Translation]

(i) Need to give clearance to the Sidhmukh and Nauhar Canal Projects in Rajasthan

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Sidhmukh and Nauhar Canals are the most important

canals of the Rajasthan State. They will provide irrigation facilities to about 8 lakh acres of land in Tehsil Bhadra and Tehsil Nauhar of Ganganagar district and Tehsil Taranagar of Churu District. The survey in respect of these canals had been conducted by the Central Water Commission and the reports have been sent to the Central Government. These canal projects are under consideration of the Central Water Commission for clearance for a long time. The Irrigation Department of the Central Government is, therefore, requested that they should take steps to get the approval of the Central Water Commission for these canals so that the farmers of the area could derive benefit from these canals and increase their agricultural production and also improve their economic condition.

(ii) Need to provide good seeds, fertilisers and means of irrigation to farmers and ensure remunerative price for their produce

SHRI R. P. SUMAN (Akbarpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under rule 377. It is very necessary to give special attention to the burning problems of the farmers in a big agricultural country like India. It is a fact that our agricultural policy is very sound on account of which our country has been able to achieve self-sufficiency in the matter of foodgrains. But if fertilisers, irrigation facilities and good quality seeds are provided to the farmers at the appropriate time, they can further increase their agricultural production. As a matter of fact, seeds, fertilisers and irrigation facilities are not provided to the farmers in time. The Electricity Department is also responsible for this to a great extent. The crops have to suffer because they are not watered at the proper time due to non-availability of electricity. I, therefore, request the Central Government that in order to make the country stronger and more powerful, the problems of the farmers should be solved by providing good quality seeds, good quality fertilisers and sufficient irrigation facilities to them at the proper time. Steps should also be taken to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their agricultural produce and while doing so, the cost of production of agriculture should also be kept in view. It is necessary to do so in