

the jobs elsewhere or make necessary arrangements for their financial assistance till the restarting of the mill. The Government of India have taken immediate steps in such a case—one Bombay mill. Financial aid is a must in this case also. It is also very essential to go into the causes of the fire and to decide on the further line of action to avert such accidents.

We are anxious to know about the total loss involved.

(iii) **LIKELY LOCK-OUT IN COOPERATIVE SUGAR MILL AND DISTILLERY OF PANIPAT**

SHRI PURNA SINHA (Tezpur): It is an urgent matter of interest to the poor people which I intend to raise under Rule 377.

The Cooperative Sugar Mill and Distillery of Panipat in Haryana is in danger of being locked out for want of finance to purchase sugar cane from the growers. For nearly two weeks now the growers are not being paid a single paisa for the cane they have supplied for want of funds. The society asked for Rs. 75 lakhs from the bank on the guarantee of the State Government, which is not forthcoming. There are nearly 1,500 employees who are also the shareholders of the society which owns the mill. At the same time there are 15,000 cane growers who are also members of the Society and who have purchased shares. They are in villages around Panipat and supply all the materials required for the working of the Mills from their own produce. It is not expected of them to continue to supply sugarcane without payment at the Government agreed rate of Rs. 13.50 per quintal. (Government had also agreed to this price). They are now compelled to sell their sugarcane to private owned Khandsari Sugar Mills at Rs. 8 per quintal which is much below the expected price to the growers. At the same time, it is also much below the cost of production.

Unless the Central Government, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Cooperation, together with the Agriculture Ministry, come forward with the additional working capital of

Rs. 75 lakhs, together with a change in the Management of the Society, the mills will be closed at any moment throwing 1500 workers and their families into distress and compelling sugarcane growers, who number about 15,000, to give up cultivation of this crop altogether.

It is stated that a Haryana Civil Service Officer, a junior in rank, is placed in charge of the Sugar Mill and he is dancing to the tune of the State Ministers of Finance, Labour and Co-operation who are unable to provide the necessary additional funds. Unless some assistance comes from the Government of India, along with technical know-how, the sugar mills will be closed at any moment. I, therefore, demand from the Government of India that they should appoint not only a sugar technologist but also an Administrator, and they should provide additional funds to the tune of Rs. 75 lakhs, for which the mills had asked the Government long ago.

(iv) **REPORTED CLOSURE OF MAHARANA CLOTH MILL OF PORBANDAR (GUJARAT)**

श्री धर्मसिंह भाई पटेल (पोरबन्दर) :

ग्राम्यक्ष महोदय, गुजरात के सौराष्ट्र प्रदेश के पोरबन्दर शहर की महाराणा कपडा मिल स्टीम कोल के अभाव से 11 मार्च 1978 से बन्द हो गई है। यह मिल 46 वर्ष पुरानी मिल है। इस मिल को प्रति मास नौ सौ टन स्टीम कोल मध्य प्रदेश की बिलासपुर की खदानों से आता था। छः महीने से कोयले की कमी इस मिल को अनुभव होनी रही थी। कोयले के अभाव में मिल बन्द हो जाने से 2300 मिल मजदूर बेकार हो गये हैं और प्रति दिन पचास हजार मीटर कपडा तैयार होता था वह भी बन्द हो गया है।

इस मिल के बन्द होने से मजदूरों को, मिल को और सरकार को आम्बनी में नुक्सान होता जा रहा है। पोरबन्दर की महाराणा कपडा मिल को तुरन्त कोयला मिल सके इसके लिए शीघ्र प्रबन्ध किया जाए ताकि मिल तुरन्त चालू हो सके। मिल मैनेजमेंट, मजदूर यूनियन की ओर से भी केन्द्रीय