

am putting this question not in the interest of any party. I am putting this question in the interest of the labour and also in the interest of the nation.

Sir, there are a number of Unions sponsored and promoted by the political parties. They are interested in the rights and privileges of their parties only, not in the interest of the labour and also not in interest of the productivity. There is a participatory management in the Madras Refinery which is an exemplary one. There is only one union and they are working in the interest of the labour. In order to avoid all this confusion, will the hon. Minister incorporate this principle of participatory management of labour in the new legislation which he is going to bring forward?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has said about discipline. According to that discipline, the largest union is given recognition. If there is a single union, it is something ideal. But I couldn't understand the question of the hon. Member. If there is only one union, it will get recognition and all the facilities as are admissible to such unions will be made available to it. So there is no problem in it. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**Revival Package for NTC Mills in West Bengal**

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\*945. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:  
SHRI V. SREENIYASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee consisting of the Chairman of the National Textile Corporation and West Bengal Chief Secretary has recommended a revival package for 14 sick NTC mills in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken or contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) . A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee Comprising Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal and Chairman-cum-Managing Director, National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi formed in January, 1990 has recommended short term and long term strategies to be adopted for revival of the 14 textile mills of NTC in West Bengal. The short term strategies include the following:

- (i) All spinning/spinning departments of composite mills should work for three shifts and seven days;
- (ii) Weaving capacities should be reduced in phases by 20 to 25% and workers should be trained and redeployed in spinning section;
- (iii) Amalgamation of 14 units into 10 units must be made;
- (iv) Any surplus worker should continue to draw full wages till alternative arrangements are made for their redeployment;
- (v) Trade Unions/workers should accept workload norms in line with the standard workload norms; and
- (vi) A Tripartite agreement with the State Government, NTC and the Trade Unions covering the above

mentioned revival package should be entered into.

The long term strategies recommended by the Committee include the following:-

- (i) Investment of Rs. 100 crores, subject to a total revival package proposed by NTC being accepted by the Trade Unions and State Government;
- (ii) NTC should raise the spindleage to absorb maximum number of surplus workers;
- (iii) Surplus land available, should be sold to raise funds for modernisation. The money proposed to be realised through sale of surplus land consequent on amalgamation of 14 units into 10, should be utilised for raising resources from financial institutions, for investment in modernisation;
- (iv) State Government agencies should consider giving preference to purchase of yarn and cloth from NTC mills;
- (v) The State Government should consider treating NTC mills as sick mills and should offer concessions and assistance available to sick units in the private sector; and
- (vi) Project report for revival of 10 units, consequent upon amalgamation of 14 into 10 units, should be prepared. The minimum capacity of spinning mills should be raised to 25,000 spindles.

(c) The further course of action for modernisation and revival of NTC mills in West Bengal aims, in the light of the above-stated recommendations, at improving the economic performance, better capacity utilisation, improvement in quality and quantity

of yarn production etc. Through adoption of short-term remedial measures as well as long term plans, keeping in view economic viability of the NTC mills in West Bengal.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: I am extremely happy to know that a committee consisting of the Chairman of NTC and the Chief Secretary of West Bengal Government have looked into the affairs of the NTC mills in West Bengal. May I know from the hon. Minister whether Government will consider constituting such committees in all the remaining States also with a view to reviving the sick textile mills in those States?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in January 1990, a Committee was constituted for the NTC mills of West Bengal. It comprised of the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of West Bengal and the Chairman of NTC. They have submitted their report to the Government. All the details of the report have been given in this reply. They have worked hard to prepare this report. As compared to other NTC mills in the entire country, the NTC mills of West Bengal have been incurring maximum losses. So, during my Calcutta tour, I met the Chief Minister of West Bengal and found that due to sickness and recurring losses, those NTC mills had become a source of anxiety. So a committee was constituted to suggest improvements in the functioning of those sick mills and it made 7 recommendations of which the most important one was to go in for settlement regarding certain things such as work norms and work culture. There is a dispute about the surplus land that we have in the country and it cannot be sold. According to the agreement reached between the Government of Bengal and our ministry, it was decided that the surplus land would be sold for raising funds for the modernisation and improvement in the functioning of sick mills. They have made many good recommendations. Regarding 14 mills, they have said that they should be amalgamated into 10 mills. The hon. Member has asked to do it in the entire country. The hon. Chief Minister of West

Bengal took special interest in this regard. If the Chief Ministers of all those States, where the NTC mills have been incurring recurring losses and are therefore sick and ask for their revival, we can consider their request. The hon. Member is asking about the State he belongs to. The mills in that region are not in a bad shape. The NTC mill of his area has earned a profit of Rs. 10 crores. Out of the 9 subsidiaries it is the only subsidiary which has earned such a high profit. However, if there is any problem, we are ready to look into it. We can also think about the measures that can be taken to improve the situation there.

[*English*]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: I am extremely happy that the hon. Minister has complimented the functioning of two Textile Mills located in my constituency, that is the Cannanore Cooperative Spinning Mills and also Mace Cooperative Spinning Mills. These two Spinning Mills are running at. I once again thank the hon. Minister for the compliments. But, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the NTC has now virtually become a white elephant. There are lots of complaints against officers of the NTC regarding corruption, mal-practices, inefficiency and callousness etc. Under these circumstances, will the Minister consider looking into these allegations and also evolve a strategy to streamline the entire NTC set up?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir I agree that the N.T.C. mills have been running at a loss for the last several years. There are reasons behind it. Whichever Government it might be, it has to fulfill certain social obligations. Earlier, most of the big industrial houses and businessmen in the country were associated with these N.T.C. mills. They exploited these mills and because of this reason the Government had to take over these mills. These mills have been running at a loss continuously for the last 5 to 10 years. Since the day our Government

came to power the loss has shown a fast receding trend. The cash loss was about Rs. 311 crores in the previous years whereas in 1989-90 it has come down to Rs. 178.27 crores. In other words the loss has been reduced to half during this year. I agree that there is a favourable atmosphere for the textile industry not only in the country but also all over the world. The hon. Member has said that there is widespread corruption and malpractices in the N.T.C. In this connection I would like to say that this malady is not there in the N.T.C. only, but it is spread in many other fields also in the country. We are making utmost endeavours to remove corruption irregularities, shortcomings and other such maladies. I would further like to tell the hon. Member that the mills located in his state are very good mills and these could be compared with any commercial unit of the country. As far as the question of bringing improvements in these mills is concerned, as has been suggested by him, our Ministry is making all-out efforts to bring the required improvements. We have sought an amount of Rs. 523 crores for the Eighth Five Year Plan. If this amount is allocated, we are optimistic that despite all odds, we will be able to make these mills as profit earning units.

[*English*]

SHRI DEBI PROSAD PAL: Sir, I would like to know whether there is any textile mill in West Bengal which is not a sick one and, if so, has the Central Government or the West Bengal Government revived any of these textile mills in West Bengal up-till now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, sir, with great regret I would like to say that all the N.T.C. mills/units are running at a loss. Whenever I take out the chart and have a look at the statistical details, I see only minus figures and no sign of plus. In some units the quantum of loss is higher while it is lower in the case of others. In order to overcome this situation a committee was set up by the Government and the Committee has

since submitted its recommendations. We will approach the financial institutions with these recommendations and after striking a package deal with them we will try to streamline the functioning of these mills. Further improvements will be made in the mills which are already in a good state.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:

Sir, the textile industry, not only in West Bengal but all over India, is a very strange one. On the one hand, the poor section of our people remains inadequately clothed and, on the other hand, the textile mills are getting closed down. In West Bengal, there are NTC mills and there are other mills also. One classic case is that the very famous Mohini Mills, whose management was taken over, has been denotified. There is no other case in West Bengal of a textile mill being denotified.. (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: No, another case is also there.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:

Now another case has also come. On the other hand, Sir, the problem with the NTC mills, like the Joyti Silk Weaving Mills, is that it has become a method of only paying wages to the employees, without renovating the machines, without providing adequate raw material, and that way the NTC mills continue to gloom, which provides an argument that such mills should no longer be continued but should be closed down. So, will the Minister find out the method of reviving the NTC mills in terms of renovation? One of the problems in West Bengal which was very famous in West Bengal and which was internationally famous also, is that in that State the cotton textile mills are getting closed down one by one. We wanted to... (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: What is your question?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I am not asking any question from him, Sir. I

would like to know whether or not adequate funds or adequate financial assistance will be provided for renovating the NTC mills and, secondly, whether in lieu of equalisation of freight for steel and coal, the raw cotton supplied would be on the basis of equality of freight so that raw cotton is available at a competitive cost.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Hon'ble Members who had from West Bengal are highly knowledgeable people. I have already said that we are also concerned as much as they are in this regard. As a proof to this, I had myself gone to West Bengal and met the hon. Chief Minister of the State who is also a leader of the masses in the State. A Committee was constituted in consultation with him. The report of the Committee has since been received. As has rightly been said by Shri Chatterjee, the Committee in its report has suggested various measures to rejuvenate these mills. It is also a fact that the the craftsmanship displayed by the wearers greatly attributed to the achievement of country's freedom. Mahatma Gandhi used to say that had these weakers, whose hands display great craftsmanship is weaving cloth, not been there, India would have continued to remain as a slave. Our country still enjoys the glory of being an expert in textile industry. This industry has large potentials. As far as I know 1/4th of country's foreign exchange is earned through this industry out of which the share of the handlooms and the weakers is larger. So far I know, Bengal used to be a leading State in textile industry in the world. The Dhana muslims which was once famous all over the world was produced in Bengal only. As such, as has been proposed by Shri Chatterjee, we are prepared to hold negotiations in Connection with the D.F.I.R for the Mohini Mills and infact we are looking into it.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the N.T.C. Mills in Maharashtra are incurring at loss. As such, I would like to know an to whether any proposal was received from the Chief Minister of Mahar-

ashtra and if so, the steps being taken by the Government to implement the proposals? My question is as to whether the Government is going to change the textile policy evolved by Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government in 1985 which caused some fluctuations in the industry.

**SHRI SHARAD YADAV:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the position in Maharashtra is not that grim as it is in West Bengal. It is not only the case with the N.T.C. Mills in Bombay alone, but in other places also viz. Gujarat, Tamilnadu, Kerala etc the position is same. I noticed that there is no labour problem at these places. I have all along been receiving letters from the Chief Minister of Maharashtra in this regard. It is not only the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, but the hon. Members of Parliament from the State are very ineticulous in their work.

**PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE:** When are you going to visit Maharashtra.

**SHRI SHARAD YADAV:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the N.T.C. is as good as a hospitals functionary in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh etc. By the word hospital I mean the silk mills which have been taken over by the Government. As such these sick mills are as good as a big honesty. I know that, even after getting subsidy the N. T. C. mills in Maharashtra are incurring losses, but as compared to West Bengal the quantum of loss in Maharashtra is not much.

**SHRI HARIN PATHAK:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 7 N. T. C. mills in Ahmedabad in Gujarat which are continuously incurring loss. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether any recommendations have been received from the Government of Gujarat. So as to reduce the loss? Secondly, 30 Textile Mills are lying closed in Gujarat. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he has received any proposal from the Textile Minister of the State suggesting to take over the Sick mills at Ahmedabad and other places?

**SHRI SHARAD YADAV:** Mr. Speaker,

Sir, proposals have been received from the state Government and the hon Member has also been discussing with me on this subject. It is not a big problem and the information that has been asked for by the hon. Member will be furnished labor on. The hon. Member has been discussing with me the suggestions received from Gujarat in this regard. The matter will be decided very soon on the basis of these discussions.

**SHRI HARIN PATHAK:** I asked as to how the loss could be reduced.

**SHRI SHARAD YADAV:** I have replied that if there is a will, we will definitely find a way one for this.

#### **Fly in Sealed Bottle of Medicine**

-946. **SHRISANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been recently brought to the notice of Government that a fly was found in the sealed bottle of a medicine manufactured by an International Drug company;

(b) whether reports to this effect also appeared in the press; and

(c) if so, the veracity of the case and the effective steps being taken by Government in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE ( SHRI RASHEED MASOOD ):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

(a) A complaint from Dr. S. K. Ghosh of Ranchi (Bihar) addressed to the Prime Minister of India was received by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stating that a bottle of Wymox (Amoxycillin Mixture B. P.) Batch No. 9G1557 manufactured by M/s. John Wyeth (India) Ltd., Bombay and purchased from M/s. Sinha Pharmacy, Ranchi, had an insect in the sealed bottle.