

17.15 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DIS-  
APPROVAL OF SICK TEXTILE  
UNDERTAKINGS (NATIONALI-  
SATION) ORDINANCE, 1974  
AND

SICK TEXTILE UNDERTAKINGS  
(NATIONALISATION BILL)—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we resume the discussion on the Statutory Resolution regarding the Sick Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Ordinance, 1974 and the Sick Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Bill.

Mr. Vasant Sathe to continue his speech.

श्री वसंत साठे : मैं एक गम्भीर मुद्दे पर बोल रहा था जबकि आपने इस घटना का उल्लेख करना शुरू किया। मैं वह रहा था कि मजदूरों की गाड़ी कमाई का सारी जिन्दगी का पैसा जिस पर वे बुढ़ापे में भ्रवलम्बित रहते हैं, उनके बाल बच्चे रहते हैं, छीना जा रहा है, उनको उससे वंचित किया जा रहा है। इसके लिए मजदूर किसी भी तरह से गुनहगार नहीं हैं, जिम्मेदार नहीं हैं। मजदूर ने क्या किया है ? उनसे मिल की सेवा की जिसे आप ले रहे हैं। वह उसकी अर्न्ध इन्कम है, उसका कमाया हुआ पैसा है। जहां तक बैंक के पैसे का ताल्लुक है वह तो चालू मिल में लगा रहेगा जो आप ले रहे हैं, वह पैसा आप बैंक को कल भी वापिस कर सकते हैं, ब्याज उस पर आप दे सकते हैं। सरकार का पैसा जनता का पैसा है, वह भी आप बाढ़ में ले सकते हैं। क्यों आप बैंक का पैसा पहले देना चाहते हैं। यह दलील दी जाएगी आपके अधिवारियों की तरफ

से कि सरकार ने जो पैसा दिया उसके बास्ते हमें प्रायोरिटी होती है, जब जब इस तरह के मामले होते हैं, कानून ऐसे हैं कि उनका प्रायोर क्लेम होता है। अब हम क्या कर सकते हैं। कानून को आप बदलिये वगैरह वगैरह। लेकिन मैं कहता हूँ कि इसी कानून में आप व्यवस्था कर सकते थे इसकी कि किस को प्रायोरिटी देनी है और किस को नहीं। आप कह सकते थे मजदूरों का क्लेम शूड्डूल में पार्ट ए में पहला आएगा, बाकी के कानून

Notwithstanding any provision in any other Act, this will prevail.

Why are you afraid? What is the obstruction of other sections?

मेरा निवेदन है इस मुद्दे पर कोई भी समझदार व्यक्ति सभी सहमत नहीं होगा कि मजदूरों की गाड़ी कमाई का पैसा, उसके बुढ़ापे का सहारा किसी भी तरह से उससे छीन लिया जाए, उससे उसको वंचित कर दिया जाए। आप कहते हैं कि हमने कहां वंचित किया है वह मालिक से ले ले। मालिक से वह क्या लेगा ? मालिक की मिल तो आप ने ले ली। वह मिल का नीकर था। मालिक की खानगी जायदाद के खिलाफ वह कुड़की या सिविल सूट या डिक्री ला सकता है ? कोर्ट में साफ कह दिया जाएगा।

You were the servants of the mills.  
Proceed against the mills.

आपने यह कानून में यदि कह दिया कि हम जिम्मेदार नहीं तो वह न तो घर का रहेगा और न ही घाट का। इसको आप बदलिये। क्या यह कभी सोचा जा सकता है कि इस

तरह से एक कानून जो हमारे देश के तथा मजदूरों के हित में हो वह बन सकता है ? आप कहते हैं कि मिल चले, मूनाफे में चले, मजदूरों के उत्साहपूर्ण योगदान से चले । लेकिन दूसरे एक ही स्ट्रोक से आपने कह दिया कि तुम्हारी पिछली कमाई सब रद्द, अब नए सिरे से काम करो । ऐसी अवस्था में क्या मजदूर दिल लगा कर काम कर सकता है ? नहीं कर सकता है । यदि आप उसका सहयोग चाहते हैं तो वह इस तरह से आपको प्राप्त नहीं हो सकता है । एक एक करके अभी तक हम कानून ऐसे लाते गए हैं जो मजदूरों को हम से दूर धकेलने में सहायक होते रहे हैं, उन के उत्साह का ही मंद करते रहे हैं । अब यह लारस्ट स्ट्रा भ्रान दी केमल्ल बैंक है । यह उन के साथ सब से बड़ा धोखा होगा । आपको उलटे यह कहना चाहिये था कि मजदूर मिल को चलाएं । मीनेजमेंट का जो क्लब आपने डाला है उस में आप यह कहते कि मजदूरों के नुस्खे उस में रहेंगे और वे इन मिलों को चलाएंगे । आप को समाजवाद का यह नक्शा हमारे सामने रखना चाहिये था, एक आदर्श आप को इसका ले कर हमारे सामने रखना चाहिये था । यह आपने नहीं किया । यह किया जा सकता था । आपने कहा है कि नैशनल टैक्स्टाइल कारपोरेशन की एक ही पालिसी रहेगी, अलग अलग नहीं रहेगी । आपको जो नया बिल लाना है इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशंस बिल, उसे आप जल्दी लाएं और तमाम नैशनलाइज्ड टैक्स्टाइल

मिल्ड, के मजदूरों पर आप उसको लागू करें । आपने केसिज ... लड़े होंगे । अभी तक ऐसा देखा गया है कि बहुत सी स्टेट्स में कुछ ऐसे कानून हैं कि टेक प्रोवर मिल हो गई तो सारे जितने कानून मजदूरों के हक में थे, उनको सस्पेंड कर दिया गया । बम्बई में बम्बई इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशंस एक्ट, मध्य प्रदेश में इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशंस एक्ट तथा जो इंडस्ट्रियल आर्डर थे उन तक को भी सस्पेंड कर दिया गया । चाहे वह बरहानपुर की मिल हो या हिंगनघाट की महाराष्ट्र में हो, चाहे नागपुर की माडल मिल हो चाहे राजनदगांव की बी एण्ड सी मिल हो, इंदौर की मिल हो ऐसे अध्यादेश निकाल दिए गए कि सारे स्टैंडिंग आर्डर भी सस्पेंड कर दिए गए, मजदूरों के जो कुछ बुनियादी हक थे उन को रद्द कर दिया गया । डिसमिस्ड एम्प्लायी इंडस्ट्रियल डिसप्यट्स एक्ट के तहत कोर्ट में नहीं जा सकता । डी० ए० में दो तिहाई की कटौती कर दी गई, इन कटौतियों के बल पर मिल चालू है लेकिन उनके बुनियादी हक सस्पेंड हैं । आपको तो माडल एम्प्लायर बन कर दिखाना चाहिये था, आदर्श उपस्थित करना चाहिये था । मजदूरों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करनी चाहिये थी ताकि उत्साह से वे उत्पादन के काम में हिस्सा ले सकें, साथी बन सकें, साथीदार बन सकें । इस तरह का कुछ प्रयत्न आपको करना चाहिये था । लेकिन आप उस्ता ही काम कर रहे हैं । उनके हक आप छीन रहे हैं । ऐसी अवस्था में कल को क्या मजदूर राष्ट्रीय -

[श्री वसन्त साठे]

करण के हक में होगा ? और फिर यह राष्ट्रीयकरण] मजदूरों के हक में कैसे जाएगा ? राष्ट्रीयकरण मालिकों के हक के लिये नहीं होना चाहिये। मालिकों ने पाप किए तो उन पापों के ऊपर आप उनको दक्षिणा देना चाहते हैं ? यह कहना चाहते हैं कि आपने लूट कर ली आज तक इस वास्ते आपको यह 49 करोड़ हम दक्षिणा के रूप में ऊपर से आप पर मेहरबानी करके, बखशीश के तौर पर दे रहे हैं। क्या यह उनको सजा के तौर पर दिया जा रहा है ? मजदूरों का उन्होंने नुकसान किया। मजदूरों का पैसा उन्होंने दबाया। प्राविडेंट फंड का पैसा बेतन से काट लेने के पंद्रह दिन के अंदर अंदर उनको जमा करवाना चाहिये प्राविडेंट फंड कमिश्नर के पास यह एक्ट में है। उन्होंने लाखों रुपया मजदूरों की तन्ख्वाह में से काट लिया लेकिन जमा नहीं करवाया ई एस आई का पैसा मजदूरों का काट लिया लेकिन जमा नहीं करवाया यह पैसा चोरी का नहीं था। मजदूरों का पैसा था। सरकार को आपको घोखा दे कर उन्हाते यह पैसा दबा कर रखा... लिया। आपने कोई कानूनी कार्रवाई नहीं की यह पैसा, उन से वसूल नहीं किया समय पर और यह जो पैसा है उसका आप क्या करने वाले हैं। उस को भी आप वसूल नहीं करेंगे इस मुआवजे के पैसे में से वह भी काट नहीं लेंगे ? 49 करोड़ काफी नहीं होता

यदि मजदूरों का क्लेम आप पहले रखते। मजदूरों का क्लेम तुरन्त देने की भी जरूरत नहीं है। लाया-बिलटी एक्ससेप्ट होनी चाहिये। इसको हो एक्वट कर के आपको चलना चाहिये। कल मजदूर नहीं जा रहे हैं और न कल को आपको उन के प्राविडेंट फंड का पैसा देना होगा। कल ही को उन की ग्रेचुइटी का पैसा देने की नीवत नहीं आने वाली है। प्रीवियस मनेजमेंट ने जिन लोगों को रिट्रैचमेंट किया उन के केसिज पेंडिंग हैं। मैं होंगनघाट के केसिज को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जीता हूँ। वह ले आफ का 18 लाख रुपये का क्लेम है। क्या होगा उस पैसे का ? इस विधेयक में यह कह दिया गया है :

"No award, decree or order of any court, tribunal or other authority in relation to any sick textile undertaking passed after the appointed day in respect of any matter, claim or dispute which arose before that day shall be enforceable against the Central Government or the National Textile Corporation;"

वह खत्म हो गया। मजदूर तो मर गया। मजदूर अपने रिट्रैचमेंट कामपेन्सेशन का केस सुप्रीम कोर्ट तक जा कर जीता गया, लेकिन वह विधेयक कहता है कि वह एनफोर्स नहीं कर पायेगा। वह किस के खिलाफ एनफोर्स करने के लिए जायेगा ?

मंत्री महोदय एक नामी बहोल हैं और मजदूरों के हमदर्द हैं। वह इस प्रश्न का गौर से अध्ययन करें और इस को गम्भीरता से देखें। देश का पैसा; मिल-मालिकों को दिया जाये, या सरकार को दिया जाये या मजदूरों

के लिए सुरक्षित रखा जाये, अगर यह सबल आया, तो देश का कोई भी सच्चा नागरिक या गरीबों का कोई नुमायंदा कभी इस बात को मंजूर नहीं करेगा कि मजदूरों का पैसा छीना जाये। इस लिये मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस बिल को बड़ी गम्भीरता से लेना पड़ेगा। मैं अभी से कह देता हूँ कि यह नहीं होगा कि आगे चल कर इस बारे में हम पर दबाव डाला जाये। मंत्री महोदय हम को विश्वास में लें। अगर मजदूर का गला काट कर, अगर उस की गाड़ी कमाई का पैसा छीन कर, देश का कोई हित होने वाला है, तो मैं चाहे आकर मजदूरों से कहूँगा कि वे देश के लिए कुर्बानी करें। लेकिन यह बात नहीं है। सरनायदादारी और पूँजीपतियों की भलाई के लिए ऐसा किया जा रहा है, जिन को कल बैंकों से पैसा मिलने वाला है।

किस नेशनलाइज्ड बैंक की आप बात करते हैं? नेशनलाइज्ड बैंकों का पैसा बड़े पैमाने पर किम को मिल रहा है? उन्हीं पूँजीपतियों को मिल रहा है। उन बैंकों की आप बात करते हैं, क्योंकि वे राष्ट्रीयकृत हैं। इस तरह का घोषा नहीं होना चाहिए।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध करूँगा कि वह मेहरवाणी कर के इस बिल को गम्भीरता से लें। बाकी का बिल सब ठीक है, लेकिन इस क्लॉज 5, शिड्पूल और दूसरे सम्बन्धित प्राविजन्स में हम ने एमैंडमेन्ट्स सजेस्ट किये हैं। मंत्री महोदय उन पर विचार करें। इस बिल में बुनियादी परिवर्तन करने के लिये

उन को तरमाँन लाना पड़ेगी, नहीं तो हमारे लिए यह बिल मंजूर करना असम्भव है।

\*SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN (Salem):  
 Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to say a few words on behalf of my party DMK on the Sick Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Bill, 1974.

Sir, at the outset I would like to point out that whatever I am going to say on this Bill should not be understood that I am opposing the nationalisation and taking over of the sick mills. While I support the idea on nationalisation of sick mills I would like to state my views regarding the manner in which nationalisation has been undertaken and the manner in which the sick textile undertakings would be managed after nationalisation.

I find from this Bill that 103 sick mills are going to be nationalised. I also see that under Clause 8 of the Bill an amount of Rs. 39.18 crores is going to be paid as compensation to the owners of the sick textile undertakings. It has also been provided in the same Clause that till the Bill received the assent of the President of India each mill owner will be given Rs. 2000 per mensem. But I would like to bring to the notice Sir, how the provision has been made. It is stated in the financial memorandum that the owners of the sick textile undertakings will get an amount which is estimated "will be about Rs. 2000 per month". I would like to know why the amount has not been specified in respect of each owner of the sick textile mill. When it could be stated clearly that Rs. 39.18 crores would be provided as compensation why the Government has not specified the total amount that would be paid per month to the mill owners. I would like the Minister to give the reasons to the House.

\*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri E. R. Krishnan]

It is also provided in the Bill that as there is likely to be delay in the payment of compensation by way of interest the mill owners would be given Rs. 13.06 lakhs per month. Here also the Government do not seem to have clear idea as to the time that would be taken before the compensation is paid to the mill owners and therefore they have not been able to specify the total expenditure that Government would incur by way of paying interest to the mill owners. I am surprised that the Ministry is unable to decide regarding the time that they would take for making full payment of compensation. Or am I to take that the Government are not willing to disclose the total amount that they would have to pay by way of interest? Sir, apart from this under Clause 27 of the Bill it is provided that the Central Government would pay Rs. 9 crores to liquidate the loan liabilities of the sick textile mills. Here also the financial memorandum merely states that the total liability is likely to be of the order of Rs. 9 crores.

Sir, I am pointing out these things only to show that one need not be surprised that the total amount that would be ultimately paid to the owners may even cross Rs. 100 crores instead of Rs. 39.8 crores as specified in the Bill. I do not have any option except strongly to condemn this act of generosity of the Government which is willing to pay hundred crores of rupees to the mill owners who during the last 30 years inspite of operating the mills round the clock have not paid the legitimate wages and bonus to the textile workers and who have amassed huge wealth.

Sir, I also find from the financial memorandum that funds will also have to be provided to these undertakings for the working capital modernisation and expansion and that the government envisaged the total investment of Rs. 108 crores during the 5th Plan period. In view of this admission

by the Government I would like the Government to re-examine the entire question of payment of compensation to the owners of sick mills as has already been suggested by Tamil Nadu DMK Government.

Sir, I would like to point out here that on 15th April, 1974 the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly had passed unanimous resolution in this regard and have sent it to the Central Government. I would now refer to another aspect which has been referred to in the above resolution.

Sir, the Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation is now managing very efficiently and profitably 12 textile mills. The Tamil Nadu Government and the Textile Corporation have invested huge funds in these mills by way of granting advances and loans. The Tamil Nadu Government have also given a guarantee for an amount of Rs. 7.32 crores. They have also given a loan of Rs. 2.30 crores. The State Government have also not recovered the sales-tax and electricity dues which amount to Rs. 1.33 crores from these mills. Thus, the State Government involvement in these mills is to the tune of Rs. 109.5 crores. A part from this the Tamil Nadu Government by way of equity share capital for investment? Rs. 90 lakhs in the Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation.

Sir, the workers of Tamil Nadu have put the heart and soul in the proper functioning of the Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation mills and as a result these mills are working efficiently and profitably. On these various matters our Chief Minister Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has addressed a DO letter to the Prime Minister. In that letter our Chief Minister proposed that after nationalisation the mills should continue to be managed by the State Textile Corporation. In another letter to the Minister of Industries on 10th December, 1973 the Tamil Nadu Minister of Industries had also referred to this matter.

Sir, I would like to place before the House some of the main points mentioned in the unanimous resolution of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. The resolution stated:—

1. The mills whose management was taken over should be immediately nationalised.

2. The nationalisation should be done by the State Governments.

3. Even after nationalisation the mills which are presently under the Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation should continue to remain under the Corporation.

4. When the question of compensation is taken up the mill owners should not get the benefit arising out of the development of the mills through public money and Government assistance.

5. The State Government should be clothed with the necessary powers for the above.

Keeping all these in view, the leader of my party Shri Sezhiyan has given amendment to various provisions of the Bill.

Sir, I would urge that the 12 mills that are managed by the Tamil Nadu Textile Corporation should continue to be under the Corporation. Here I would like to point out that there are 13 mills in the Cooperative sector in Tamil Nadu which are admirably working. According to me there is no need for paying any compensation to the textile mill owners. All the liabilities of the mills before their management was taken over should be the responsibility of the mill owners. Instead of appointing Commissioner of Payments and spending huge money on his organisation it is better to leave the entire responsibility to the concerned State Governments.

Sir, I would now pose the question whether nationalisation means that the Central Government alone can do it. If the State Government takes over

the mills will it mean that there is no nationalisation? Is it the kind of Socialism that we are talking about? I would like to tell the House that by these steps a feeling has arisen in the minds of public that every power is vested in the Central Government and the State Governments have no power at all to do anything worthwhile. This Bill is another example of the kind of attitude that has been shown by the Central Government in regard to the powers of the State Governments. As I have already pointed out some of the State Governments are already managing several textile mills very efficiently and profitably and at this stage if the Central Government wants to take over those mills I think it is not just and proper. It is not as if a member of the Opposition is voicing these views. Only three days ago in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Ruling Congress Party members along with members of Opposition have raised their voice against the Central Government taking over the mills which are already being managed by the State Governments. They have also threatened that if the Central Government persisted in doing so they would raise the banner of agitation.

Sir, at a time when 21 textile mills were sick and about to be closed down leading to retrenchment of 54,000 workers in order to save the situation the Maharashtra Government took over those 21 mills. Through their textile corporation they invested Rs. 17.10 crores in these mills and today the mills are functioning efficiently and profitably. The INTUC leader and Ruling Congress member of the Assembly Shri T. P. Patel has also opposed the Central Government taking over the mills which are being managed by the State Government of Maharashtra. He also stated that if it is done the workers of Maharashtra will agitate against this step which in turn will lead to industrial unrest. Before I conclude I would once again refer to the important points referred to in the letter of Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to the Prime

[Shri E. R. Krishnan]

Minister on 5th March, 1974. The Chief Minister stated:—

1. Even though the State Government accepts that it will have 49 per cent share in subsidiary corporation it should have management control over the corporation.

2. Minister wants discussion to be held at Delhi so that the Bill can be discussed further before it is passed.

3. If the State Government views are not accepted, the State Government would like to completely withdraw from the corporation and have no part in it.

4. In the compensation schedule provided, Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation stands to lose 1½ crores which it has given to Somasundara and Kaliswara Mills before take over as it is provided in the Bill's Second Schedule that such loans will come in category 3 and there will be no money left for payment to TIIC after paying the dues of category 1 and 2. Hence even Public Sector Financial Houses will lose heavily.

Sir, finally I would say that I strongly oppose this Bill and would request the hon. Minister to withdraw this Bill.

I conclude with the following points:—

1. Even though the State Government accepts that it will have 49 per cent share in subsidiary corporation it should have management control over the Corporation.

2. The Minister wants discussion to be held at Delhi so that the Bill can be discussed further before it is passed.

3. If the State Government's views are not accepted, the State Government would like to completely withdraw from the Corporation and have no part in it.

(4) In the compensation Schedule provided, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation stands to lose Rs. 1½ crores which it has given to the Somasundara and Kaleswar Mills before take over as it is provided in the Second Schedule that such loans will come in category III and there will be no money left for payment to the TIIC after paying the dues in categories and II. Hence even public sector financial houses will lose heavily.

AN HON. MEMBER: The translation is not coming.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The unfortunate position is that the Tamil interpreter is absent. The hon. member has given an English rendering of his speech which will form part of the proceedings.

SHRI DHAMANKAR, (Bhivandi): We do not get Hindi; we do not get English.

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA (Bahraich): The point is that the speech of the hon. member should be made intelligible through the medium of translation either into Hindi or into English. Since the difficulty is that no translator is available, the hon. member should be directed to resume his speech when such translator is available in the House.

SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: I would conclude my speech in two minutes.— Or you may give me time tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not possible. He has finished the major part of his speech. The translation has also come to some extent as far as I have been able to hear. In a couple of minutes his time will be over.

SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN: I will take only two minutes more.

**SHRI S. R. DAMANI (Sholapur):** I rise to support the Bill. Before I take up other points, I should like to know from the hon. Minister the criteria for evaluation of various mills, from that point of view the annexure is very vague. They should give against each mill the capacity of the mill in spindles, looms, etc. We do not know their capacity and the criterion for valuation is on the basis of capacity. For instance, the India United Mills is valued at Rs. 1,000. Its capacity is 2,25,000 spindles and 7,000 looms. As against that, the Ahmedabad Jupiter Mill is valued at Rs. 2.5 crores. We do not know its capacity but I think it is one-sixth of India United Mills. One mill in Akola is valued at Rs. one crore while the other Savatram Ramprasad is valued at Rs. 59 lakhs. These are vague and it is difficult to judge whether they are correctly valued or not.

Secondly, all these mills are at present run by the different State textile corporations. Where those State corporations consulted about the evaluation of those mills? Different financial institutions have given guarantees they have invested huge amounts from their own resources. Have they been consulted in working out the value of these mills?

Thirdly, what about the rights of the State Governments which have invested money in these mills? For example the Maharashtra State Government took over some mills. When many mills were being closed down in Maharashtra, specially in small towns whose economy depended on those mills, in order to provide employment and save the economy of those small towns like Akola, Hinganghat, Sholapur, etc. Maharashtra Government had the courage to take over those mills. At present the Maharashtra State Textile Corporation is running 21 mills and the Maharashtra Government have invested Rs. 18 crores in these mills. Now when these mills are taken over by the National Textile

Corporation, the ratio of share investment of the Central Government is 51 per cent and of Maharashtra Government 49 per cent. While the Central Government have so far paid only Rs. 8.90 crores, the Maharashtra Government have already paid or invested Rs. 18 crores and given guarantee for another Rs. 4 crores, making a total of Rs. 22 crores. Therefore, the amount invested by the Maharashtra Government is much more than their ratio of 49 per cent. Has any settlement been reached with the Maharashtra Textile Corporation or the State Government on this question before taking over those mills? Obviously, the Maharashtra Textile Corporation and the State Government would have to be recompensed for the amount they have invested in excess of their share of 49 per cent.

Then, when the Maharashtra Government took over these mills, they told the workers that these are old mills with old machinery, that they are taking over these mills only to provide employment to them and, therefore, the workers should also make some sacrifices. So, the workers were asked to accept 50 per cent of their dearness allowance the balance to be paid to them only when the mills started earning profits. Now that the National Textile Corporation is going to take over those mills, these assurances given to the workers by the Maharashtra Textile Corporation should be honoured by them. They cannot escape that responsibility.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** How can this be incorporated in the Bill?

**SHRI S. R. DAMANI:** That was one of the conditions of the take-over of those mills. These are the responsibilities which the National Textile Corporation would be taking over when they take over the control of those mills. They cannot escape that responsibility. So, all the assurances given by the different State Govern-



[Shri S. R. Damani]

ments to the workers of these mills should be fulfilled by the National Textile Corporation or the Central Government. This should be made clear by the Minister while he replies to the debate.

Then, coming to the workers, I would say that the continuity of service of the workers should be guaranteed. They are not concerned as to whether they have worked with the previous owner or now they are going to work under the National Textile Corporation. They are working in the same mill. Their services should not be affected. The continuity of service should remain there.

Then, while moving the Bill, the hon. Minister said that they are going to create nine subsidiary Corporations to run these mills. I want to know whether the existing corporations, like the Maharashtra or West Bengal or other State Corporations will continue functioning as hitherto. I want to know how they are going to be managed. Cotton textiles is a very difficult industry because there is a wide fluctuation in the prices of cotton and a wide fluctuation in the prices of yarn also. In one year, the price of cotton goes up by 40—50 per cent and, in another year, it goes down by 20 per cent. If they are subsidiaries, every time, they will be questioned as to why they have purchased cotton when prices have gone down and when the prices go up and they do not purchase cotton, the head-office will say, "You are a fool. You have not purchased cotton".

So, without full autonomy, these subsidiaries cannot work. I have got my experience. I was a Director in the Board of the Maharashtra Corporation. There was a representative from the National Textile Corporation. In every Board meeting, the Chairman of the Maharashtra Corporation and the representative who used to come from the National Textile Corporation used to quarrel bet-

ween themselves on small points. That used to happen when the Maharashtra Corporation was an independent body and the National Textile Corporation was only a participant. What will happen when they become subsidiaries? How will they be managed? This should be clarified so that they can function properly. There should be a healthy competition to bring better results. That should be the idea. If the National Textile Corporation takes over the mills and there is no good management, losses will occur. That means the exchequer will suffer; the public will suffer. Therefore, it is very essential that this matter should be given full attention. Healthy conventions and procedures should be worked out so that, not subsidiaries, but the persons who have got experience are given the responsibility of running the mills.

Now, when the Government took over the mills, these mills were not in good shape. They closed down because of negligence. They have got old machinery, an outdated machinery. The first thing that is required to be done is to modernise the mills so that they become viable units and they can make profit. They should not become a liability on the exchequer every year. A plan for the modernisation of units should be worked out so that, gradually, these mills become viable units. The plant and machinery employed in this industry are sufficiently available in the country and there is no need to import them. Therefore, modernisation plans should also be drawn up side by side with the taking over of management.

Now I would refer to what my hon. friend, Shri Madhu Limaye, who is not present here now, said yesterday. I am sorry to say that Mr. Madhu Limaye's figures are always, in respect of any item, three years old; his figures are not up to date. He was asking, why Government is importing long staple cotton. He should know that, in the last

two years, Government has not imported any long staple cotton; if at all we had imported, it was only a very small quantity. He was mentioning that it was worth Rs. 200 or 300 crores. It is not correct. Last year the import of cotton was not more than Rs. 10 to 15 crores. The Government of India, in order to encourage the production of long staple cotton in the country, have put an import duty of 40 per cent on long staple cotton. Since then, the import has almost been stopped. Therefore, Government is vigilant in taking action.

Again, Sir, why were they importing and for whom? He said that it was for the rich people. It is not correct. On fine and superfine cloth there is heavy excise duty. The yarn which is made from imported cotton, 80 to 120 counts, is used by the handloom and powerloom sector. On that there is very small excise duty just to enable them to compete with the organized sector. Therefore, Government was importing only to provide to the handloom and powerloom sector yarn required by them. Also they have put restrictions on the organized sector of the industry. They cannot manufacture saree or dhoti or mulls. These items are reserved only for the handloom and powerloom sector. Therefore, Government was importing cotton only to help the handloom and powerloom sector, and that purpose has been served. Now in our country the production of long staple cotton has increased; it is about 15 lakhs bales per year of only one quality—Shankar-4—from which 80-count yarn is produced. Therefore, they should not be critical of the Government without going into the full facts.

Regarding controlled cloth, I want to make a request to the hon. Minister. Many of the members have not seen the quality of the controlled cloth. He may, therefore, arrange

either in the Central Hall or somewhere an exhibition where the samples of the controlled cloth can be kept for the information of the members, so that the members know what are the qualities which are being manufactured.

Mr. Limaye was talking about controlled cloth not being produced in sufficient quantities. But on the 21st October, in the Consultative Committee meeting—I am a member of the Consultative Committee—the hon. Minister for Commerce had informed us that in two quarters, April—June and July—September, as against the obligation of 400 million metres of controlled cloth, they have produced 407 million metres. I do not know from where Mr. Limaye gets these figures. Therefore, I said that these are outdated, three-years old figures.

18.00 hrs.

Lastly, a suggestion and I will conclude. According to me, industries should be asked to ear-mark 25 per cent of their production for selling it at cost price. In the cost price there will be no element of depreciation and the prices of the cloth should be fixed by the Textile Commissioner and the Textile Commissioner should have a Cost Accounting Section, so that the public can know the cost of every type of cloth from time to time and that will help the consumers if my suggestion is accepted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we adjourn to meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m.

18.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, November 27, 1974/Agrahayana 6, 1896 (Saka).*