

Government have fixed any time-limit for completion of this work, and if so, the details thereof.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has always been our endeavour to see that modern techniques are used in every field to the maximum possible extent, and it is all the more needed in the field of coal mines. For modernisation of coal mines, a Central Mine Planning and Design Institute has been set up at Ranchi. It is their constant endeavour to see how new techniques can be used, such as for example the techniques of open cast mining. It is their endeavour to find out how to achieve maximum production of coal at minimum cost by adopting new techniques.

[English]

#### Reorganisation of NTC

\*142. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been undertaken regarding organisational structure of the National Textile Corporation and also to assess the manpower requirement of the Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the recommendations; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A study has been entrusted to a consultant regarding organisational structure and manpower requirement of National Textile Corporation (Holding Company). The study includes determination of the role/function of National Textile Corporation (Holding Co.) and streamlining the functions of various divisions as well.

(c) and (d). The report of the Consultant has not yet been received.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** In view of the fact that the National Textile Corporation over the years has mainly, or perhaps wholly, been engaged in taking over mills, which were sick or closed by the private

employers, it is not surprising that the financial performance of the NTC has been somewhat dismal and there have been losses continuously, though I find that in 1983-84 the cumulative result seems to indicate some profit for the first time, according to the volumes which have been given to us recently. I would like to know whether this enquiry or study, which is going to be undertaken or is under way now, is going to concern itself with any complaints, which have been coming to the Government regularly, regarding the mismanagement of these mills, some corruption, the shortage of raw materials at reasonable prices, the inadequacy of textile machinery, the inadequacy of stores and spares. Is the enquiry going to cover all these things, or is it only to deal with the structural changes in the management?

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH :** It is mainly confined to the structural changes to determine the role and function of the National Textile Corporation (Holding Co.) vis-a-vis the subsidiary corporations; streamlining the functioning of the divisions of the corporate office, study of the organisational structure of the corporate office and manpower. This is the main idea of the study, which the hon. Member has mentioned. He has rightly stated that it is only the sick and closed mills that we have taken over. There has been a handicap right from the start. But, he would be glad to know, that in January 1985, 35 mills have shown cash profits. There has been an improvement in recent years.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** It has always been the contention of the Government that they have to take over sick and closed mills, most of these mills were functioning with very out-dated and ramshackle machinery and it requires huge investment for modernisation and so on. May I know from him why Government has been reluctant or unwilling to take over the mills, which are far from being in an out-moded condition, which are functioning with very good and up-to-date machinery, which had very good export markets, but which, nevertheless, were closed by the private mill owners? I am referring in particular to the case of the Anglo-French Textile Mill in Pondicherry, where the hon. Prime Minister, as reported in the press, during his election meeting recently in

Pondicherry, assured the people there that steps were going to be taken soon to reopen this mill, which is lying closed for over 2-1/2 years, and 7,000 workers are out of jobs. I think the hon. Minister will not contradict me when I say that he also agreed with us in the past, that it was a very good mill technically, with up-to-date machinery and an excellent export market. Why is it that mills of this kind are never taken over, only ramshackle mills are taken over, and that is being pleaded as a ground for losses?

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** The Finance Minister likes patients very much'

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH :** It is not correct to say that only ramshackle mills are taken over. But when the mills are in a ramshackle condition, then the hon. Members from the other side also join in the demand that the Government should take them over. And when we take them over, we are told that we have taken over only ramshackle mills.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Why don't you take over good mills, which are closed down?

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH :** The hon. Member will remember that in Bombay we took over 13 mills. According to our norms, they were the right mills to be taken over, but the High Court of Bombay has adjudged that those mills, the Elphinston and other mills, were not in that category of sick mills. We have gone in appeal. Because it is *sub judice*, I will not make any further mention.

About the Anglo-French Mills, under the IDR Act we are contemplating investigation in depth. But one thing I want to put before this august House is that the net loss of the NTC since inception has been Rs. 529 crores, it is true, but what it has contributed in excise is Rs. 300 crores, and what it has paid as wages is about Rs. 1400 crores. It has gone to a social cause of giving livelihood to so many people at only this much of cost.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** I am not against the NTC. Do not misunderstand me.

**SHRIMATI MAMTA BANERJEE :** In West Bengal, the Textile Processing Corpo-

ration is not getting sufficient orders from the National Textile Corporation. If this Corporation does not get sufficient orders, its factory will be closed down and its workers will be rendered unemployed. Because this factory is dependent on the orders of the National Textile Corporation, I would like to know whether the Government has any proposal to allot sufficient orders to the Corporation to enable it to continue its operations.

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH :** I have no information at this moment on this specific question.

**SHRI ASUTOSH LAW :** In West Bengal, the Bengal Enamel Company is one of the biggest companies which is lying closed. As a result there are 1,800 workers who are now out of employment. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to take over this company.

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH :** This question relates to those mills which are under the NTC. The question which the Hon. Member has asked relates to a company other than those falling under this category. Therefore, I think, this question is out of the ambit of the question.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :** The condition of the Jute Mill in Gaya district of Bihar has deteriorated due to its mismanagement and it is on the verge of closure. Four hundred workers have not been paid their wages for as many as four months. I would therefore, like to know, whether Government will institute an enquiry to bring about improvement in its condition.

[English]

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH :** This question is regarding the general organisation of the NTC. There are 103 nationalised mills. In total there are 125 mills and it is not possible to have a discussion on each specific mill. Therefore, I think I need not reply.

**SHRI P. C. SETHI :** I would like to know from the Minister whether any of these mills which have been taken over by the Government are likely to be closed. In this connection I would particularly refer to some of the mills in my Constituency,

Indore, like the Swedeshi Cotton mill and others, which have been taken over.

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH** : There is no such decision as yet.

**Export of Levy Sugar by  
factories**

\*143. **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL** : Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND SUPPLY** be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of levy sugar exported by factories during 1983-84, State-wise ;

(b) whether targets were fixed for 1984-85 for export of levy sugar ; if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether the targets have been achieved and if so, the extent thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH)** : (a) Export of sugar is canalised through the STC. The State Trading Corporation exported 8.135 lakh MTs of sugar, during 1983-84.

(b) and (c). Under the International Sugar Agreement, 1977 India had an export quota of 6.5 lakh MTs for the calendar year 1984. It was originally intended to fulfil this quota. However, after a review of estimates of production, consumption trends, prices and the position regarding the new International Sugar Agreement, it was decided to limit the exports to about 3 lakh MTs during the calendar year 1984. The actual exports during the calendar 1984 was 2.87 lakh MTs. The actual exports during the financial year 1984-85 are expected to be about 1.56 lakh MTs, earning foreign exchange worth Rs. 37.10 crores.

[Translation]

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL** : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that a statement has been laid on the Table. I wanted to know the Statewise figures of sugar exported during 1983-84. But Statewise figures have not been given. Sugar is exported through S.T.C. only after concluding an agreement with every sugar mill. I do not know the difficulty in supplying Statewise figures. The share of Maharashtra in export of sugar is the largest

whereas sugar production in Maharashtra is declining. I want clarification in this regard. I would also like to know the foreign exchange earned by exporting sugar in 1983-84. The sugar exported in 1984-85 was less than the quantity earmarked for that year. What is the reason therefor? As the price of Sugar has been fixed on the lower side in the country, the price paid for sugarcane was also less. The low price of sugarcane has resulted in less production of sugar even today. We are not exporting sugar proportionate to production. I would like to know the quantity of sugar imported and the amount spent thereon.

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH** : Sir, in 1983-84, 4.17 lakh tonnes of sugar was procured from the factories in Maharashtra, 1.33 lakh tonnes from Tamilnadu, 1.01 lakh tonnes from Karnataka, 0.85 lakh tonnes from Andhra Pradesh, 0.61 lakh tonnes from Uttar Pradesh and 0.48 lakh tonnes from Gujarat. It is true that the maximum quantity of sugar was procured from the factories in Maharashtra for export. In the year 1983-84, a total of 8.14 lakh tonnes of sugar was exported which yielded Rs. 210.92 crores. Now the question is why we have not further increased the export of sugar. We had proposed to export 6.5 lakh tonnes of sugar in 1984-85, but keeping in view the fact that our total production of sugar was 59 lakh tonnes as against the production of 82 lakh tonnes in the preceding year, we had to give up that proposal because if we had exported more sugar the sugar price would have gone up in the country. Hence, we did not feel the necessity of export. We had concluded contract for only 3 lakh tonnes for which the Government had given permission. A total of 2.51 lakh tonnes of sugar was exported in the year 1984.

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL** : I wanted to know about import also.

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH** : 4.96 lakh tonnes of sugar were imported during that year.

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL** : Secondly, I would like to know this also from the hon. Commerce Minister we used to have import and export of sugar in accordance with the International Sugar Agreement but since this arrangement is no longer in existence, what would be the mode of