

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Which is the railway line which you are referring to ?

SHRI H.A. DORA : Balasa is my native place. The Minister mentioned about the Vijayawada-Balasa railway line in his Budget speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot do like this. Please take your seat. Don't you know the name of the railway line ?

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : It is Vijayawada-Balarsha line, not Vijayawada-Balasa line. My friend is mistaken.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The saying of an uninvited guest forcing the host to offer hospitality fits well here.

SHRI BANSI LAL : The work on the Vijayawada-Balarsha line is in progress.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Government be in a position and be able to finish it by the end of this year ?

SHRI BANSI LAL : It will be finished by 1987-88.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : As far as Hyderabad is concerned, it is a growing city. Its population is growing.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Everybody knows it.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Government take up electrification of the railway line connecting the suburbs of the city by electric trains ?

SHRI BANSI LAL : I have not been able to follow. (Interruptions).

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

### Birla Mills Delhi

2. SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that not even a single meter of cloth has been produced in Birla Mills of Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that thousands of workers of the said Mills have not received even a single penny during the last three years; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that thousands of workers have been forcibly retired ?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) According to Delhi Administration, no cloth is being produced as Weaving and Allied Sections of the Birla Mills remain closed.

(b) We are not aware and are verifying from the Delhi Administration the position regarding non-payment of wages to the workers.

(c) According to the Delhi Administration, 244 workers have been retired during the last three years. Besides, 721 permanent workers are being paid lay off compensation while 255 badli workers are being provided work for 11 days in a month. Report from the Delhi Administration about the remaining workers, if any, affected by the closure of the Weaving and Allied Departments is awaited. Separately, Government is verifying the details from the CPFC and ESIC Organisations and appropriate action will be taken.

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to note that the Hon. Minister has admitted at least one fact that not a single yard of cloth has been manufactured in the Birla Mill for the last three years. Before I put my question, I want to thank the Hon. Labour Minister and the Hon. Minister of Works and Housing that they have saved 6000 workers of the D.C.M. whom the owner of the mill wanted to finish in one stroke. But, this problem of the Birla Mill is more serious than that of the D.C.M. This is so because the owner of the mill wants to finish the workers through the method of slow torture. The owner of the Birla Mill sometimes severs their hands, sometimes their feet and sometimes their heads.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you think that anybody can survive after he is beheaded ?

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Now they are as good as dead. I want to tell you why

they have reached such a sad state. Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last two years, such conditions were created in which two thousand workers have been retrenched. In the beginning, the weaving department was closed down, thereafter other departments were closed down, as a result of which three thousand workers have been rendered jobless for the last three years. Not a single paisa has been paid to these workers. The Hon. Minister has himself admitted that he is not aware of it. Not a single paisa has been paid to thousands of workers for the last two years.

MR. SPEAKER : You put your question.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : I am putting my question. Unless I narrate the conditions prevailing there, the Hon Minister would not be able to reply to my question. My question that not a single paisa has been paid to the workers for the last three years has not been replied to ? How many workers were beaten up there during the last three years ? One worker was lifted up and thrown into the boiler. The departments were closed down one after the other. Now, other departments are also being closed down. We had demonstrations, agitations and hunger strikes and demonstrated outside the Parliament House a number of times during the last three years. But, I am sorry to say that the Commerce Ministry did not take action about the Birla Mill even once.

MR. SPEAKER : You put your question.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : I am coming to the questions.

Is it not a fact that two years ago, Shri Jagraves Chandra, the leader of the House in the Delhi Metropolitan Council who is also the Chief Executive Councillor had tabled a resolution in the House that the Management of the Birla Mill was not interested in running the Mill and, therefore, the Mill should be taken over ?

MR. SPEAKER : You put only one question.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : I am clubbing it with the question. Is it not a fact that the Labour Commissioner of Delhi had issued instructions that they should run all the

departments and that employment should be given to the three thousand workers who had been rendered jobless, but these instructions were not headed to and the Delhi Administration filed a suit against the Birla Mill ? Is it not a fact that three departments have been closed down as recently as last week ? I want to know the reasons why Birla Mill cannot be taken over when Tata's Mill and the D.C.M. can be taken over.

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Delhi Administration have so far taken action on 6 counts against the management. The first is that they have been prosecuted for closing down the weaving section, secondly, a court of enquiry has been instituted, thirdly, the matter has been referred to the Department of Industries. The Delhi Administration had not in any way given permission to close down the weaving section. The Management closed down this section disregarding the court and the law. We are disturbed over this development and are taking action in this regard. Today, everywhere the management wants to close down the old factory and set up a new one in its place. There are about 825 textile industries in the country and this is the tendency of most of the mill-owners. Consultations in this regard are going on with the Textile Ministry and we shall think about taking action on its report, which is likely to be submitted soon. We shall think about its take over and shall also study the general situation and action would be taken on the basis of the report which is awaited.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : I have not received the reply to my question. I had asked whether it was not a fact that a resolution was adopted by the Delhi Metropolitan Council two years ago and the Delhi Administration had decided to take over this mill ? You have admitted that the Delhi Administration had issued instructions and had not given permission. I want to know how this mill has been closed down for the last three years and why Government are sitting silent.

[English]

Are Government only silent spectator ?

[Translation]

I want to know how, when permission was not granted the mill was allowed to close

down and also inspite of the fact that the Delhi Administration had passed a unanimous resolution? Therefore, my demand is that the Hon. Labour Minister should take the responsibility of either getting the mill reopened before the next session of Parliament starts or take it over. Merely talking like this is not going to help. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI T. ANJIAH : We shall hold discussions in the meeting and then decide. It is difficult to say anything at this stage. Half of the mill is running whereas the other half has been closed down. We shall press them to run the weaving section. If they do not run it, we shall consider the recommendation made by the Delhi Administration to the Textiles Ministry.

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : You please tell me whether within two months, before the next session of Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is all right. It cannot be a question of debate. He has answered it already.

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter concerning the families of 6000 workers. My question has not been replied to fully.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is what he has said—that they will take into consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : What action you are going to take if the Mill is not reopened within two months?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has already answered it.

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : If it is a matter for consideration, you may tell us how the mill is lying closed when permission was not granted? No cloth has been manufactured there for the last three years and the workers are on the roads. I only want to know what

action will be taken by the Government in case the mill does not open within two months?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has already said it. What more can I get out of him? He said that they would consider what the Metropolitan Council had said.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : As far as I can understand, the Weaving Department in the Birla Mills was closed down as long ago as August, 1982. So it is not a matter of recent occurrence. The Minister has told us what they propose to do now. The weaving Department was closed down and as Mr. Makan has pointed out that not a single yard of cloth is being woven in that mill and they have closed down the weaving department totally, I want to know whether it is a fact or not. Now subsequently, in the last week they have also closed down three more departments—the printing department, the shearing department and the colouring department. These are finishing departments. Once the cloth is woven they have to pass through these departments for the finishing process. That means that the mill management is determined to go ahead with its proposal to close down production of cloth completely. I want to know from him. The other day during the debate on Labour Ministry's Grants I have used an expression which angered a large number of members here. Perhaps they did not understand what I have been saying. I said that I would like this Hon. Minister—whom I respect very much—to try to rescue this labour administration from its present stage of impotence. Some people got angry. They said this word is unparliamentary and this should be expunged. It was not expunged. Impotence has many meanings. They were perhaps thinking of other meanings.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Impotence of inanimate thing is permissible.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, why is that inspite of the fact that Birla management is repeatedly refusing to carry out the orders of the Labour Department and Labour Commissioner no action is being taken against them? They have made it clear that they are not going to listen to what you say. Why action is not being taken under the Industrial Development Regulations Act or Industrial

Disputes Act to see that the management of this mill is taken over? You need not nationalise it but the management of the mill should be taken over and production resumed. Why is it not being done?

[Translation]

SHRI T. ANJIAH : The management is facing prosecution and a Court of Inquiry for closing down the weaving section .. (Interruptions) The report is available with us. I had told you that the question of take over is not within the purview of the Labour Ministry. However, we shall recommend it to the Textiles Ministry. We shall insist on takeover if no compromise is reached. There is need to take action against such managements. It is just possible that that the management may not listen to it. In that case, action will be taken, and only then they will learn a lesson. A full report in this regard is with the Textiles Ministry. It is being examined what action can be taken on that. The Finance Minister had also hinted at it during this Budget Session. We want to take action keeping fully in view the crisis that has struck the workers. It is a matter of time now. The Delhi Administration is dealing with it. When they refer it .. (Interruptions) It has been recommended to the Textiles Ministry. I do not have the report on the outcome of the talks held with them. The Textile Minister is not present here. It is necessary to talk to him. The required action will be taken.

[English]

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Sir, I want to know specifically and straight. In spite of the fact that six months before the Labour Commissioner of Delhi Administration gave them direction to start the weaving department, they have written back unequivocally that "we shall not run it". I want to know whose writ runs — that of Government of India or that of Mr. Birla—in this country because inspite of being reminded not to do, they are closing one department after the other. They have reduced the labour strength from 6000 to 4000. They have the ultimate intention of driving out the others and keep only 1500. So, who is stronger? Apart from the sweet words of the Minister, let him tell how do they work? Is it that their writ does not work with the Birlas in this country? How is it that we want to know.

[Translations]

SHRI T. ANJIAH : This I have alserdy made clear to you that the management is continuously violating...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Put them in jail...(Interruptions)

SHRI T. ANJIAH : I am not in charge of the Home Department only the Labour Ministry is under me...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Why did you admit the question...(Interruptions)

SHRI T. ANJIAH : You have also dealt with this Department.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : That is why I an telling you that you have got the nearuses and you can use them.

SHRI T. ANJIAH : We are prepared to pay attention and to take action. We shall force the management some how to continue to run these departments. In case they do not...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I hope that they are not lollipops.

[Translation]

SHRI T. ANJIAH : We shall let you know within two months, in the next session ...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALIT MAKEN : You take over the mill in the next session...(Interruptions)

SHRI T. ANJIAH : We shall get it done if it is in my power to do so...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : After to months, no lollipops. And when it will be taken over? That is what we want to know.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The total strength of the workers in the Birla mills as on 1-1-82 was 6,000; today it is 4,000. I would like to put one specific question to the Labour Minister. What relief was provided to these 2,000 workers who have been eased out in various dibious ways in the last 3 years?

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** We want pin-pointed statement.

[Translation]

**SHRI T. ANJIAH :** I have already told you that some workers retired in the normal course. Their number is 240 and some other workers had sought voluntary retirement... (Interruptions) The number of the workers who had taken voluntary retirement is 1570.

(Interruptions)

[English]

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** Workers have been thrown out. We want specific assurance from the Minister. 2,000 people are thrown out.

[Translation]

**SHRI T. ANJIAH :** The report with us indicates that 1570 workers have gone on voluntary retirement. We do not have report to the effect that they were forced to seek voluntary retirement.

(Interruptions)

[English]

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** 2,000 people are thrown out.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has got the information. He has given the information.

He cannot give you wrong information.

[Translation]

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** All this is wrong. Nowhere has this happened.

[English]

**MR. SPEAKER :** It could have been the other way.

[Translation]

**SHRI LALIT MAKEN :** They were beaten up and were forcibly thrown out... (Interruptions)

**SHRI T. ANJIAH :** We are also giving thought to the information which we have received from you and we shall enquire

whether they have been thrown out forcibly, forced to seek retirement and whether any compensation was given to them or not... (Interruptions) But, according to the report which we have received, 240 persons have retired in the normal course and over 1,500 persons have taken voluntary retirement.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** 2,000 workers were made to retire within two years... (Interruptions)

**SHRI T. ANJIAH :** We are looking into it, we are enquiring into the matter.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### Development of Social and Women's Welfare Organisations

\*881. **DR. B. L. SHAILESH :** Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry has recently issued some instructions to State Governments regarding the development of social and women's welfare organisations ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of State Government thereto ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE :** (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

### Workshop at Mokameh

\*883, **SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that before Mokameh Bridge came into being, ferry system was prevalent at Mokameh where a very big dock with workshop was working under the Railways to undertake the repair work for ferries and it engaged a large number of workers who are still working there ;

(b) whether Government have ordered to stop expansion and further development of the said workshop dock ; and