

LOK SABHA DEBATES

1

LOK SABHA

Friday May 17, 1985 Vaisakha
27, 1907 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I informed the House yesterday of the sad demise of Chowdhry Girdhari Lal, a sitting Member of Lok Sabha representing Bijnor Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

He was a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly continuously for 29 years during 1945-74 and was the Member of the State Cabinet right from 1946 to 1967 and again from 1970-72 holding various portfolios. Earlier, he had also been a parliamentary Secretary to the State Government in 1946. He was the leader of the Opposition in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1972-74.

An able parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House particularly relating to upliftment of weaker sections of the society. He was member of the Indian delegation to the Conference of the Ministers for Irrigation and Power, held in U.S.S.R. in 1964.

Chowdhry Girdhari Lal passed away at New Delhi at the age of 73 years on 16th May, 1985.

2

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

[*The Members then stood in silence
for a short while*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Crisis in Powerloom Industry

*895. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the powerloom industry in Bhiwandi; Maharashtra is facing a crisis due to closure of three lakhs powerlooms resulting in loss of more than six crores of rupees ;

(b) if so, the number of workers rendered jobless and forced to leave this area ; and

(c) the reaction of Government and the remedial steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, approximately three lakhs

powerlooms have closed down in Bhiwandi. There might be some difference in the figures. When justice is not meted out the Department concerned, people take the help of newspapers. Whatever news is published in the press has some basis in support of that. This news has been published two or three times. There was shortage of power. People are leaving their business and are going out. It is not very easy to get information about them in a city like Bombay, because the number of people coming to the city is also very large. I would therefore, like to ask the hon. Minister if he would send a team there and find out how many powerlooms are actually lying closed there and how many people have been displaced or have gone out of the city. A similar situation had also developed regarding the textile mills of Bombay also. The owners of the textile mills gradually closed down their mills and inserted their capital in other areas and some of them went out of the city. The industrial area of Bombay is, therefore, facing the problems gradually. Bhiwandi would also be an addition in that direction. Keeping all these points in view. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether a team would be sent there to find out the number of powerlooms which have been closed down as also the extent of damage suffered by the people and the number of people who have gone out.

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH: A Survey Team of the Labour Department of the Government of Maharashtra visited 500 Units in February, 1985 just a little more than two months back and it has failed to find any sign of crisis in powerlooms industry in Bhiwandi. Again a Joint Team comprising Officers of the Labour Commissioner, Bombay; Deputy Labour Commissioner, Thana and the Officers of the Labour Commissioner, Bhiwandi conducted visits as recently as on 8th and 9th May, 1985, and did not come across any significant closure of units or unemployment among workers. So, I am happy

to report to the hon. Member that the crisis which he feared does not exist at all.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the supply of yarn from those powerlooms to different areas has remained the same or there has been variation during the last three months. Can the hon. Minister give us the statistics about the supply of the produce of the powerlooms to different areas?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH: That particular Information or statistics is not here with me at the moment. But from all angles we have examined this. If there is any information specific in nature which the hon. Member has in his possession, I would be happy to take note of it and take remedial action.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : There is a different excise charged on the cloth made in powerlooms and much more excise is charged on the mill-made cloth all over India. In the new textile policy which you are going to announce, will you take care of these things so that the cloth made by mills in Bombay City and other centres, in powerlooms, etc., stands the competition with other cloth?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH: We are aware of this situation. But, I think, the hon. Member does not expect me to tell the House immediately what the textile policy is likely to be.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The Minister must be aware of the fact that, due to the prolonged textile strike in Bombay, some of the mills have been closed down on the ground that the machinery is outmoded and the units will not be economically viable. As a result of that, a number of looms have been discarded. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government will take some ini-

tiative in this matter. Thousands of workers from those areas in Bombay have migrated to the Konkan region which is the hinterland of Bombay City. Those powerlooms might be sent there and if, on cooperative basis, some effort is made to set up powerloom factories there, if those looms which are discarded in Bombay are utilised in the backward Konkan region for setting up a powerloom industry, will the Central Government encourage the cooperative endeavour?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH: The question relates to Bhiwandi, but I would like to tell the hon. Member...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Geographically, Bhiwandi is part of Konkan. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH: The question does not relate to the closure of mills in Bombay and its impact elsewhere. But I would certainly take note of the hon. Member's suggestion.

[*Translation*]

**Shifting of Headquarters of MITCO
From Patna**

*896. **SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the main activity of mica is centred at Giridih and Kodarma but the headquarters of Mica Trading Corporation is in Patna;

(b) whether in the interest of workers, Government propose to shift the headquarters of Mica Trading Corporation from Patna to either at Giridih or Kodarma and if so, by what time; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND**

TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : (a). Yes, Sir. Giridih and Kodarma are main centres for Mica mining in the country. Mica is also mined and processed in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan and other areas of Bihar.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Mica has a large export market. MITCO is exporting mica to about 35 countries in the world. For commercial and administrative reasons, the headquarters of MITCO was located at Patna which has good means of communication and is well connected by airline and rail to enable MITCO to maintain close liaison with the foreign buyers.

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : We always talk about workers and labourers. Giridih is an industrially backward district in Bihar and is inhabited by Adivasis. The people of that area have no means of livelihood. The headquarters of MITCO are in Patna which is about 300 kilometres from Giridih, and the workers and staff of MITCO have to run all the way to Patna even for a small work. Apart from that, MITCO has already purchased land in the industrial area at Giridih. The Minister says that due to good means of communications and its being well connected by air and rail, location of the headquarters at Patna will enable MITCO to maintain close liaison. But if that be the reason, you can well shift it from Patna to Delhi which is having better air and rail communications. It will be in the interests of the higher officials of. So from all MITCO. these points of view, I would request the Minister to shift the headquarters from Patna to Giridih which will enable the people of Giridih to have a better say in the functioning of the MITCO.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH: We feel that it will not be in the interests of those involved in the mica business—the and the traders to shift it from Patna to Giridih because that would retard the functioning of the MITCO it-