

12.06 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

CLOSURE OF MILLS IN COIMBATORE

Mr. Speaker: I have received notices of two adjournment motions.

One is from Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan, about

"The situation arising out of the closure of the Kaleeswarar Mills Coimbatore, employing about 2,500 workers and the consequent labour unrest, the loss of production of cloth and yarn and the threat of further closure of other mills in and around Coimbatore which will affect the economy of the country generally and the city especially."

I would not have brought it up but for the fact that yesterday some questions were put relating to the steps taken by the Central Government to avoid further closure of mills and enable the accumulated stocks, etc. to be sold and so on. I would like to have some statement from the hon. Minister regarding this matter.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan (Coimbatore): Before the hon. Minister answers may I say a few words? The position as regards the Kaleeswarar Mills and all the other mills in Coimbatore.....

Mr. Speaker: First of all, the hon. Member will satisfy me as to how it could be brought up here.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: That is what I am trying to do.

Mr. Speaker: What has the Central Government to do with this?

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: For the last six months in Coimbatore there has been a critical position with regard to the textile mills and particularly in two or three of the oldest and best-established mills such as the Kaleeswarar Mills, the Cambodia Mills and the Sarada Mills. We have

made repeated representations to the Government on this matter and the crisis there at the moment is not only the general crisis that is there throughout the textile industry in the country today but in the Kaleeswarar Mills there is also a particular crisis that has arisen as a result of the conflict within the management—two parties trying to get control of the mills. Because of this the workers are being made to suffer. Those mills are in a sound condition; their shares are quoted at a fairly reasonable price, but, in spite of all these representations that have been made to the Government, as yet no step has been taken by the Government.

Mr. Speaker: Which Government?

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: By the Madras Government and also the Central Government. As a result, what has happened today is, suddenly, on the 13th August, the mills were closed down. 2,500 workers have been thrown out of employment and, in spite of representations again and again after the closure of the mills, still, there seems to be no action on the part of the Government. I would like to point out that Coimbatore is always called the Manchester of the South, and from this you will realise that the economic life....

Mr. Speaker: I only wanted to know how there is a default on the part of the Government, how it is urgent, etc. The hon. Members must bear in mind that they ought not to make speeches with regard to these matters at this stage unless I allow the adjournment motion to be brought up sometime in the afternoon. But before then, I must be satisfied as to how there is any responsibility on the part of the Central Government and whether it has been shirked and what the default has been. That is the first point. Then, I must be satisfied as to how it is urgent. That is the second point. Of course, we must know whether it is of public interest. Closure of the mills may defeat public

interests. I am not satisfied how there is urgency in this matter, if it is going on for sometime, and how the Central Government has been responsible. She says some State Government is responsible for it.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: What I am trying to point out is that it is of urgent public importance. When you call Coimbatore as the Manchester of the South, it means that the economic life of the whole city is very dependent on the textile industry there. So the Central Government has certainly to intervene in this matter. The Government can, under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, take over the mills and run them, because it is financially a sound proposition. As the matter has been presented both to the Madras Government and the Central Government time and again, I would request that urgent action should be taken in this matter so that this type of action on the part of the management will not continue. Otherwise it looks as if the conflict in the management will continue *ad infinitum* and the workers and people in other sections of the city will suffer because of this petty conflict within the management itself over property control of the mills and so on.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): I have not got all the information about the closure of this mill.

Mr. Speaker: When was it closed?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: It was on the 14th of August. As stated by the hon. Member just now, there is some internal conflict amongst the partners themselves. So, insofar as that is concerned, that relates to the State Government and they will have to look into that matter. So far as the production side is concerned, we are also keen that the mill should not be closed down. They have applied for a loan and that application is already under the consideration of the National Industrial Development Corporation. If they satisfy the necessary

conditions, we will have no objection to giving them loans also. I cannot say anything more just at present, but we are in telephonic touch with the Textile Commissioner and we will do what we consider to be necessary.

Mr. Speaker: If the internal trouble continues, would it be allowed to continue for months together or will the Central Government take some action under some provision of law? That is what the hon. lady Member wants to know.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: If there is mismanagement we have got the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act and under that Act we can intervene. But I do not think it will be necessary. It may be possible to settle the matter amicably.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. The hon. Minister says that he is closely watching the situation and he is also in communication with the authorities concerned. Now, I am sure the internal differences will be settled early by the State Government. The Central Government is also considering the question of advancing sufficient money for carrying on the business of this mill. Under these circumstances, I do not think it necessary to giving consent to any adjournment motion.

SITUATION IN JAIPUR

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of another adjournment motion by Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria about the removal of the High Court from Jaipur and the decision not to keep even a Bench of the High Court, resulting in discontentment etc. What is it that the hon. Member wants?

श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया (इटावा) :
 प्राजकल जयपुर में नागरिक स्वतंत्रता का हनन दिन दहाड़े हो रहा है और लगभग एक हजार से अधिक लोग जेलखाने में जा चुके हैं, और साथ ही साथ हमारे सदन के एक माननीय सदस्य श्री हरिदचन्द्र शर्मा भी उसी सिलसिले में गिरफ्तार हैं। उनको २४ घंटे के अन्दर