

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : How is it possible to increase the efficiency of the public sector, as Mr. Basudeb Acharia mentioned, that there are strikes and loss of mandays..

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Because you are not finalising the agreement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : There is a high demand for an interim relief. How is it possible ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Are you satisfied with the reply ? He says, "No, we cannot improve the capacity and efficiency, therefore we are laying stress on increasing the administered prices of the commodities "

MR. SPEAKER : He does not say that. He says 'due to these factors'. If you give benefit to inefficiency, what can he do ?

Next question. Q. No. 185, Shri Devaraya Naik. No. Q. No. 186, Dr. Datta Samant. Not present. Shri Y.S Mahajan. Not present. Next Question. Q. No. 187 Shri Nanje Gowda. Not present. Next Q. No. Question 188 Prof. Chandra Bhanu Devi.

Recommissioning of closed Industrial Units in Bihar

+

*188. **PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI :**

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are aware that 17 big and medium and 400 small industrial units are lying closed in Bihar and more than 48,000 workers have been thrown out of employment as a result thereof; and

(b) whether Union Government are considering any scheme to have these units recommissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). According to the Reserve Bank data on sick units, the number of sick units in Bihar as at the end of December 1986 was as follows :

Large scale units	17
Small scale units	9649

The data collected by the RBI do not indicate the number of sick units which are closed and the number of employees affected by such closures.

The Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has become operational with effect from 15.5.87. It looks into the question of revival of sick industrial companies in the large and medium sectors. The BIFR has registered 21 cases of sick industrial companies from Bihar upto the 29th February, 1988. 7 out of these 21 sick industrial companies are lying closed.

As regards units in the small scale sector, the responsibility for rehabilitating the sick units rests primarily with the State Governments. However, the Central Government have liberalised the margin money scheme for supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by enhancing the maximum quantum of assistance per unit from Rs. 20,000 to Rs 50,000. The National Equity Fund, which has been established recently, will also help the sick units in the small scale sector which are potentially viable.

[Translation]

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ashok Paper Mill located in Darbhanga, Bihar is lying closed since a long time and as a result thereof, thousands of workers have been thrown out of employment and their life has become miserable. I want to know from

the hon. Minister whether assistance would be given for recommissioning this mill within a stipulated period? If not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : As you know, Sir, the Ashok Paper Mill is closed for the past five years. It has been referred to B.I.F.R. It is going into it. We are waiting for the decision of B.I.F.R.

[Translation]

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Barauni is the most important industrial centre in Bihar where the country's largest refinery, fertiliser and thermal plants are located. More than half of the small scale units there are lying closed on account of shortage of power and other essential raw materials. Will the hon. Minister make necessary arrangements to supply adequate power and raw materials to these units?

[English]

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : It is the State Government's duty. They have not supplied power to these units. Bihar is deficit in power.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : During the last three years, I have raised the question of Ashok Paper Mills not less than a dozen times; and every time I was promised that the mill was likely to be opened very shortly. This is a sort of an evasive posture. May I know definitely when does the Government propose to open this mill?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : There are two Ashok Paper Mills—one is in Bihar, and the other is in Assam. Both are joint companies. Recently, the Chief Minister of Assam, and the Chief Minister of Bihar came to an understanding. Now it is before the BIFR.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The country is facing a very alarming situation due to sick industrial units. We want a full discussion, Sir. It depends on you, (Interruptions)

I want a good medicine from the Minister of Industry. We do not want

nitrogen from him; we want oxygen from him, Sir, through you (Interruptions) Let me say that this is a very important question. (Interruptions) I know it is not the Government's policy to take over sick industrial units. But when this industry is going to be closed, management will not suffer. But the workers are suffering like anything. Two lakh workers are now starving for lack of food I would request the Minister to tell us whether he has got any proposal to review the whole situation, and do something for the working class and to rehabilitate them, to enable them to survive. I want an assurance from the Minister, not any bad medicine or nitrogen from him.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : Sir, her question is about West Bengal. The question is about Bihar. Another question will be coming today about the specific State. I will then answer it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am not talking about West Bengal, but about the whole country.

MR. SPEAKER : Question 189—Mrs Jayanti Patnaik is not here. Question 190 Mr. Subhash Yadav and Shri Prakash Chandra are not available. Question 191—Dr. Vijaya Rama Rao is not here. Now Question 192—Shri Jagdish Awasthi.

[Translations]

National Consumers Redressal Commission

*192. **SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up a National Consumers Redressal Commission;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and the procedures to be followed by the Commission;

(c) the categories of consumers whose interests will be protected by this Commission; and

(d) the arrangements made by the Commission to protect the interests of daily wage workers and farmers?