

found to be surplus. But there is no question of absorbing them because they are already there.

As regards who conducted the study, I may tell that in 1982 the South India Textile Research Association (SITRA) was entrusted with the detailed study on excess labour complement in each mill, to work out the excess labour complement under certain conditions. This research organisation took two years to study the whole thing. They have come out with this report.

Another difficulty arises when you modernise the mills. If you have fast looms, that also will lead to surplus labour. So, surplus labour at a particular time is a continuing thing. If you modernise, you get surplus labour because the fast looms should not have as many workers per loom as you have in the old looms. So this is a continuing thing which we are trying to do.

The last question which the hon. Member has put was regarding the long term plan. We have a Textile Policy of 1985. We appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Abid Hussain in which the working of the Textile Policy as of now is being reviewed and I do hope that they would come with certain suggestions which would meet the needs of the situation.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I am sorry to say that the reply is not at all convincing. The Minister has admitted that there is a surplus of nearly 29000 and at the same time, he informed the House that all the surplus labour is still working. If the labour is surplus, if it is still working, that only shows the mills in which they are working, they are only a liability and because of them, the mills are incurring losses. So if they incur losses, after some time the mills will be closed down. It may be a question of a few months. We learn from the papers and from other information also that a number of NTC mills and other mills are being closed down and lock-outs are being declared and such other things are happening. So, if they say that they are surplus and at the same time, if they admit that the Government has no proposal to absorb them, then this is not a solution at all. So what I want to know is, if they are surplus, whether the Government is thinking

of rehabilitating them. Those who are prepared to retire, let them retire. You can give more incentives for them so that they can offer voluntary retirement. What about those people who are still young, who have got another 15-20 years of service, who can do some service? I want to know whether the Government has got any proposal to rehabilitate them.

I can give you a suggestion. Those who are surplus, for them, they can allot these powerlooms on co-operative basis. Let them run the powerlooms. Let the financial institutions advance finances to them and if they are provided with other facilities, I think it is possible for them to run these powerlooms on a co-operative basis. Why not Government think seriously about rehabilitating those people who are surplus already or who are going to be surplus in the near future?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I will react to the last question straightway and say that if the trade unions are prepared for the type of solution that the hon. Member has suggested that they are prepared to start powerlooms, we will be able to give free looms from our own mills, help them set up those powerlooms and get them financial assistance also. This offer is open for anyone who wants to take care of that. We would certainly do that. This is one of the items which we have. We are going further. We will have dialogues with the trade unions at all levels, including at the national level to discuss this problem. If some sort of a co-operative of the workers can take up this work it will be good. When I say co-operative of the workers, that does not mean that we wash our hands off it. We can help them in every possible way—technically, financially from the banking side and so on. So welfare of the labour is the prime consideration, not that we are running away from it. About the scheme of amalgamation which renders them surplus, it would be discussed with them and every effort would be made to give them enough compensation so that they can rehabilitate themselves.

Construction of Narmada Sagar Dam

***47. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of proposed Narmada Sagar Dam has been stopped, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether a large number of environmentalists have made it public that the proposed Dam would entail massive deforestation, soil erosion, siltation, pollution, destruction of wild life and displacement of thousands of tribals from their traditional habitat; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to divert or change the plans of the Narmada Sagar Dam ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some communications were received expressing concern on environment aspects of the project, and the whole matter was carefully examined and conditions were specified in the clearance given by the Centre from the environment angle. These conditions are being regularly monitored by the Narmada Control Authority.

(c) No, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : Sir, the answer says that some communications were received expressing concern on environment aspects of the project and the whole matter was carefully examined and conditions were specified in the clearance given by the Centre from the environment angle. These conditions are being regularly monitored by the Narmada Control Authority. May I know what those conditions are and if the monitoring is being done on a regular basis, why are environmentalists opposing the project ?

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I would like to inform the hon. Member that the environmental clearance for this project was given after the Prime Minister held meetings with the Chief Ministers of the States—especially Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. It was on 13th April 1987, and clearance was given on certain conditions; and those conditions, if I can inform the House, are :

(1) that the Narmada Control Authority, after it is reconstituted, will ensure that environmental safeguard measures are planned and implemented *passu* for the progress of work on the projects. It is a continuous process, and this work of the Committee, of overseeing the aspects of environment, will continue till the process is completed.

(2) The detailed surveys/studies will be carried out as per the schedules proposed, and details made available to the Department for assessment.

(3) The Catchment Area Treatment Programme and the rehabilitation plans be so drawn as to be completed ahead of reservoir-filling.

(4) The Department should be kept informed of progress on various works periodically.

This was done in June 1987. After that, the clearance under the Forests Act was also given in October 1987. Conditions were put *viz.* that before they take it up, all these conditions are to be fulfilled by the State Governments. So, I can assure the House that all aspects of environment will be taken into consideration, including rehabilitation and re-settlement of the people.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : The second thing I want to say is that setting up of the Narmada Sagar Project entails acquisition of a lot of fertile land. This is causing resentment among the farmers and they are opposing the project. May I know whether the Government propose to change the site of the Narmada Sagar Project to some less fertile land ?

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : To this, I have already replied in the main answer, *viz.* that we are not going to change the plan.

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA SAVIT : Through your good offices I want to say that Sardar Sarovar in Gujarat is situated

on river Narmada and this project will lead to large-scale deforestation and displacement of tribal settlements in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. May I know if the Government intends to stop the construction of the Sardar Sarovar dam on the same lines as the construction of Narmada Sagar Dam is being considered to be stopped.

[*English*]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : This question is about Narmada Sagar, and not about Sardar Sarovar; but in spite of that fact, I would like to inform the House that all aspects of protection of environment and rehabilitation of people affected, will be taken care of.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, river Narmada is considered as the lifeline for the people of Gujarat. There is a proverb in English which says—

[*English*]

“Strike the iron while it is hot”.

[*Translation*]

Keeping this in mind and considering the past three years of drought in Gujarat, will the Government accord priority to this project so that the work is executed quickly ?

MR. SPEAKER : Please get it done quickly.

[*English*]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The hon. member has asked a question about Sardar Sarovar. But the question here is about the Narmada Sagar Dam. Even then I would say that we are also equally keen in completing the project in time and I also share the anxiety of the hon. member for the completion of the project in time.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : What is the cost-benefit ratio of this project ? Since in all big river valley projects large sums of money are involved and also the problem of submergence and rehabilitation of villages, is the government considering or asked to consider taming of tributaries where the degree of submergence is negligible and the cost benefit ratio in many cases is almost the same as available after

taming big projects directly ? Would they also consider invariably the aspects of other big river valley projects ? About taming of tributaries, if it is not feasible from the cost benefit ratio point of view, would they also take up the proposal of taming big rivers ?

PROF. N.G. RANGA : That has been delayed for decades now.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The hon. member has answered the question partly by himself by suggesting certain things by taming some rivers. He has suggested that quick action should be taken while completing the project. As far as cost benefit ratio is concerned, the State Government is yet to submit their revised project report giving the cost benefit ratio. Only then I will be able to give it to the House.

Improvement in Export Performance

*52. **SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA** : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the trend of the country's export performance is showing improvement on expected lines;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken or contemplated to further improve the export performance; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. According to provisional figures available, exports have shown a satisfactory growth of 25.3% during fiscal year 1987-88.

(b) and (c). Government have already taken a series of initiatives designed to generate surpluses for export, to induce production of goods internationally contemporary in technology and competitive in prices, and to make exports more profitable.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Due to persistent efforts made in the Commerce Ministry, in spite of unprecedented drought—I want to congratulate this Ministry—they have not only fulfilled the target for export but have also exceeded it. But due to absence of monitoring and coordination between the different Ministries in some areas, there is an impediment increasing