

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Mr. Speaker, the Government has taken over the mills only because they were not being properly managed. They were incurring losses and they were causing trouble to the workers and other people also. Unfortunately, even after so many years the Government do not seem to have made any progress, is it not a fact that they are reburdened with out-dated machinery, inefficient management and inadequate financial resources? What is it that the Government are trying to do in order to improve their conditions so that they would become viable? Would the Government try to give greater attention to the ways and means by which they can be put on a self-reliant basis and can stand on their own feet?

SHRI P.A.SANGMA : It is not that we are not running these mills properly. Most of the NTC mills, prior to the take over by the Government of India, were lying closed for three years to nine years. Since the Government has taken over these mills, we have tried our best to improve their performance. As I have admitted in the very beginning, we are not at all happy with the functioning of the NTC mills. Lot of improvements are required. We have invested a large amount of money in these mills. By the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan we will be investing Rs.320 crores for modernisation. A constant review is being taken by the Commerce Minister himself. I myself go and take review at the mill level. Practically I have finished reviewing all the mills. As a result of our efforts there has been some improvement. It is not that things are absolutely out of hope. To cite a few examples. In this Year out of nine subsidiaries one subsidiary is making profit. Last year out of 112 mills 11 mills were making profit. But by September this year 18 mills were already making profits. The production value from June to March was Rs. 130 crores. By September it has gone upto Rs. 159 crores. So every effort is being made to improve their performance.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Grant of Permission to Maharashtra to Export Cotton

*147. **SHRI A.T.PATIL :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government do not agree to grant permission to Government of Maharashtra to sell in the international market 2.60 lakh bales of cotton procured by Government of Maharashtra under its Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme, although the State Government succeeded in obtaining the orders there fore ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) how does this policy of the Central Government promote export trade interests of the producers and socialistic structure of Indian economy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c) Government of India allocated a substantial quantity of long staple cotton for export to Maharashtra State Co-operative Marketing Federation during 1982-83 cotton season. The Federation entered into certain contracts with foreign buyers for quantities not covered by export quota allowed by Government. Such contracts were subject to the approval of Government of India. Their representation for allowing them to export this additional quantity was considered but it was decided not to allow further export of cotton in view of the prevalent demand and supply position and price trends within the country at that time.

The exports of cotton are determined from time to time considering all the aspects including supply, demand and interests of cotton growers.

Jha Commission on Economic Administration Reforms

*148. **SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Jha Commission on Economic Administration Reforms appointed: