

under active consideration of the Government as stated earlier in this House.

As regards the Government's effort, the State Government is doing its best to see that the mills could come under full-production.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : I am in the Opposition. She belongs to the Ruling Party. How is it possible ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : For workers' interest, we are all one.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : So, my request is you come to the middle, I will come to the middle and then we can settle the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : It is march forward !

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether she is aware of the fact that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra—I mean, the former one, we have lot of them, Sir. I am referring to the previous one—the one between Mr. Antulay and Mr. Patil—intermediate. Are you aware of the fact that the former Chief Minister, after announcement of the strike and after completion of one year of strike, has said publicly that, because of the impact of the Bombay Textile strike and because of the financial stringency that has been euated it is very likely that some of the mills might be shifted away from Bombay and they may go out of the Maharashtra State. If she is aware of the fact that these statements were made, I want to know how far these are reliable and whether there is any threat of the shifting of mills from Bombay...

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : No.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Mr. Reddy, you have not yet become a Minister. You are an apprentice for the Ministership.

MR. SPEAKER : Why ? How can you curb his inspiration or aspiration ?

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : The question is, whether he is a junior apprentice or a senior apprentice.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :

Before inspiration, let him concentrate on perspiration.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister if these statements are correct and, if that is so, is the Central Government intervening in the matter to ensure that there is no shifting of mills because there will be great hardship to the working class of Bombay. What are the concrete steps taken in this regard ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : As far as this question is concerned, the hon. Member should know that there is no such information regarding the shifting of any of the mills from Bombay to any other State. I can assure the House that none of the mills will be shifted.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Don't get excited. What I am saying is that your Chief Minister has made that statement publicly. I want to know whether she is aware of the fact that the Chief Minister has said that. If she says that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has made a baseless statement, I am prepared to accept her assessment. I will be very happy.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : There need be no such misapprehension in the mind of the hon. Member about the shifting of mills from Bombay.

#### Badli Workers in Textile Industry

\*924. PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is Government's policy regarding Badli workers in textile industry ;

(b) how Government propose to improve the lot of the Badli workers, with details ; and

(c) whether there is any time-bound programme to settle them in the industry, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c) As a first step towards solving the problems of Badli workers in the Textile Industry the Govt. had entrusted the problem of Badli workers in the cotton textile industry in Bombay to the Tripartite Committee on the

Textile Industry. The Govt. expect that after decisions are taken on the recommendations of Tripartite Committee the service conditions of those who are presently Badli workers would substantially improve.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : It has been said that as a first step towards solving the problems of badli workers in the textile industry, the matter has been referred to a Tripartite Committee. But a report has come out on 1st April'83 and the hon. Minister, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, among other things, has said :

“The problem of badli workers continues to be a major one standing in the way of an amicable settlement of strike. The problem has arisen because of differences among the members of the Tripartite Committee set up to go into the issues concerning the textile workers.”

May I know from the hon. Minister what can be the differences and how much time can be taken by the Tripartite Committee to settle their own differences which has been set up as a first step for solving the problems of badli workers in the textile industry ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : I think, the hon. Member must be having in mind the reply on the Commerce Minister that he gave here on this question about the differences between the two labour leaders or something like that who are the members of the Tripartite Committee. But as far as the report is concerned, it is under the consideration of the Government.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : My Question is regarding the textile industry and, within the broad head “textile”, cotton, jute and all are included. As you know, there are a large number of badli workers in the jute industry also. After a long 52-day jute strike, the then Labour Minister, Mr. Raghunatha Reddy had given an award regarding the badli workers. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is prepared to implement the Raghunatha Reddy award regarding badli workers in the jute industry and also in the textile industry ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : As regards badli workers in textile industry,

I can only say that the report from the tripartite committee has been received and it is under active consideration of the Government.

As regards jute, some Member has pointed it out and the Government will see to it.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : I have asked about one award of Government which is called Raghunatha Reddy award regarding badli workers. The Hon. Minister should reply to that question. That is my first question.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it about jute ?

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : Textiles includes jute textiles and cotton textile. Textiles is a broad-based term.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : My question relates to textile workers.

MR. SPEAKER : You are expanding it.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : It is included in that question.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know whether jute industry workers are also included in this.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : Textiles includes cotton textiles and jute textiles.

MR. SPEAKER : It is regarding badli workers.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : My question is regarding badli workers in textiles.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : The subject is for the Minister of Labour. It is for him to implement it or not. Whether it is jute industry or cotton industry, the workers' problems and the implementation of the award are to be seen by the Minister of Labour and not by the Minister of Commerce.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : I would like to know how Shri Raghunatha Reddy as the Minister of Labour gave the award. These two industries, jute and cotton, are under the Ministry of Commerce. That is their empire and they have not done anything to get it implemented. They did absolutely nothing. I make this charge because this Ministry of

Commerce is in collusion with the cotton textile and jute textile magnates.

Another point that would like to know is that there is a proposal afoot by the Ministry of Commerce to close down 20-25 NTC mills and already 15 jute mills are locked up. I would like to know if that is the way in which you are going to deal with the badli workers. Will it solve the badli workers problem? Closure of 25 NTC mills which are under Government management and which are nationalised and, 15 jute mills locked up for two years round the clock is not the way to solve the problem but you have not lifted even your little finger to see to it that they open. But, all the same, you are bestowing on them concessions after concessions. Please tell the House what is the present position.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : I am shocked to learn from the Hon. Member that the Ministry of Commerce is in collusion with the employers of the jute and cotton industry. We are for safeguard of workers interest, better production, more productivity and industrial peace.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : You are in collusion.

MR. SPEAKER : No collusion course ?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : They are in collusion.

MR. SPEAKER : No collusion !

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : But as far as the question of labour problems are concerned, I have already stated that the Ministry of Labour is to formulate the policy and will see it such things are there. Our Ministry is doing its best for improvement in the lot of Textile workers.

We make all efforts to see that the problems are minimised and there should be industrial peace for achieving required production and productivity.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : Can we send this question to the Ministry of Labour also ?

MR. SPEAKER : That should have been done.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : He can give a fresh notice to me.

### Representation of All India Sarafa Association for Scrapping Gold Control Act

\*926. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a deputation of the All India Sarafa Association had met the Prime Minister and urged her to scrap the Gold Control Act since it had not fulfilled the objectives ;

(b) whether the Association had also urged her to intervene in the matter of police harassment to genuine traders ;

(c) whether the Association's deputation had been assured that their grievances would be looked into ; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

The All India Sarafa Association had sent a representation dated 12.4.83 to the Prime Minister which contained demands for scrapping of Gold (Control) Act and for intervening in the matter of police harassment to genuine traders at Delhi.

The objectives of the Gold (Control) Act, 1968 broadly are :—

- (i) curbing the general demand for gold from the public with a view to reduce it progressively ;
- (ii) to serve as an economic measure to supplement other preventive measures ; to make circulation of smuggled gold difficult and its detection easier by extending the control over gold beyond the stage of import.

The objectives for which the Gold (Control) Act was brought into effect are still relevant and these are being served by the existing provisions of the Act. At present there is no proposal to scrap the Gold (Control) Act.

The representation also mentions about police harassment to traders at Delhi. The