

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 3, 1972 [Vulsakha 13, 1894 (Saka)

[The Lok Sabha met at eleven of the clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER : Shri S N. Misra—absent. I have to make this observation. In this question the hon. Member had asked for some information and the information given runs into 50-60 pages. We were calculating that each question will cost at least Rs. 3-4,000 and printing will cost about Rs 10-15,900 It is a pity that the hon. Member is not there. Next question.

Sick Industries

*662. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to place the ailing industries on healthy lines; and

(b) whether Government propose to scrap all the sick mills and reconstruct them ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Statement

One of the important tasks of Government is to help sustain the growth of industrial production. Government recognise that the spectre of sick/closed industrial undertakings is a malaise which adversely

affects production and therefore requires to be combated effectively. Government have therefore, applied themselves to this problem in the following ways :—

(1) Government have established the National Textile Corporation under the Ministry of Foreign Trade to acquire and run business of such sick/closed textile units taken over under Industries (Development & Regulation) act. This Company was incorporated during 1968 and had, by mid-April, 1972, taken over the management of 45 textile units all over the country with a view to rehabilitate, renovate and/or modernise them.

(2) To help expedite the take over of industrial units Government have recently amended the Industries (Development & Regulation) act (effective from 1-1-1972) so as to confer greater power regarding investigation into and taking over of sick/closed units which have been mismanaged or where production is being adversely affected. These powers themselves have a deterrent effect on wrongful closures of factories.

(3) A separate cell has been set up in the Ministry of Industrial Development to :

(a) coordinate investigations and taking over proceedings initiated under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act so that expeditious decisions of Government are arrived at on the cases investigated or reviewed under the provisions of Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, and

(b) to review constantly the health of the industrial units in consultation with the Director General, Technical Development and the Departments of Company Affairs and Banking.

(4) The role of the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India Ltd., Calcutta,

is being increasingly widened so as to enable it to provide reconstruction assistance to sick/closed units, especially in West Bengal. Though this Corporation started functioning only about a year back, it has already made a notable contribution in easing this problem by sanctioning till 2nd April, 1972 reconstruction assistance to 44 units, (of which 43 units are in West Bengal) to the tune of Rs. 6.59 crores of which a sum of Rs. 1.86 crores has already been disbursed. Furthermore, the Corporation has been able to arrange through other banks, financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 4.45 crores during this period. The number of workers involved in these 44 units works out to 35077.

(5) Government of India have also provided financial assistance to the various textile and non-textile units to the tune of Rs. 11614 crores, and Rs. 701 crores respectively.

(6) Government are also considering a proposal to set up a public sector Corporation to manage sick industrial units in the non-textile sector taken over under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act. This matter is, however, still in an exploratory stage.

While Government are anxious that no deserving industrial unit is allowed to close down, there are obvious constraints of financial and managerial resources and Government cannot possibly take over all closed units irrespective of considerations of their merits and economical viability. Government have necessarily to be selective in its approach in this regard and resort to 'take-overs' only where this would be in conformity with over-riding consideration of public interest.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR : I have gone through the statement; the hon. Minister has been good enough to give a lot of information. I have nothing much to ask. May I submit that when the sick mills are closed, it leads to the unemployment of thousands of workers. The hon. Minister says on page 3, that the Government are considering a proposal to set up a public sector Corporation to manage the sick industrial units in the non-textile sector taken over. I should like to know the progress on this

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : This matter is under the consideration of the Government for checking up certain details which were referred to a committee of the Secretaries and I understand that they are to finalise their decision shortly. Government would go into it and decide.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : So far as West Bengal is concerned, no textile corporation has yet been set up. There are about twenty textile mills closed. What steps do the Government propose to take in respect of those closed factories.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : So far as the State is concerned, we do not set up a separate textile corporation. There is a corporation for the whole country. As regards the textile mills in West Bengal I can give the actual position, as at the end of December 1971. Fourteen mills continue to be closed . . .

I am sorry. The position is, 12 textile mills employing 13,372 workers and one power loom employing 538 workers were closed. All the rest of the textile mills are fit to be scrapped; they cannot be reopened. Of these, 4 had already been taken over. In 4 cases, investigations were ordered and reports are awaited. In another case, the report has been received and it is under consideration of the government. In one case, the report was received and after consideration, it was decided that it cannot be taken over by the Government. In another case, the survey is attempted through the State Government. With regard to the rest of the two cases, one is under liquidation proceedings in the High Court and the other is wound up.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: May I know if the Punjab Government has recommended taking over of the Hemla Embroidery Mills in Amritsar and if so, what steps have been taken in this regard ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : I would not be able to answer it without notice.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a specific question. It needs advance notice.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA
May I know what proportion of the total

textile production is contributed by these sick mills ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is a separate question and it needs advance notice because it requires a lot of calculation.

श्री अचल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि उत्तर प्रदेश में कौन कौन सी एलिंग मिलें हैं और क्या वह ठीक लाइन पर लाई जा रही है ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : I can give the number of sick mills in U. P. but I do not have the details of their names, etc. There are 24 closed units employing 4357 workers.

SHRI S. B. GIRI : Is it true that Alcock & Ashdown engineering concern, which is a defence-oriented concern, has been closed down two months ago and if so, is Government prepared to take it over in view of the existing unemployment problem ?

MR. SPEAKER : There are so many mills. This is a general question :

“(a) the steps being taken to place the ailing industries on healthy lines; and

(b) whether Government propose to scrap all the sick mills and reconstruct them ?”

You are asking about particular mills.

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA : From the statement, I find that the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation has given financial assistance to 44 units and out of them 43 are in West Bengal. I would like to know how many of them fall within the category of small-scale units ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : The Corporation generally gives loans to big units. If they have deviated and given loan to some small-scale units, I am afraid I cannot give the information now.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : Does not the Government feel that taking over of these sick mills means putting a premium

on inefficiency and has it come to the notice of Government that in many of the sick mills that are likely to be taken over by Government, imaginary debts are created, so that the Government may pay all those debts ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : It is true that if, without looking into the matter closely we take over a mill, it may put a premium on mismanagement. That is why there is a provision for investigation, except in an unusual case. Government therefore, goes into the economics of each cases and looks into the nature of the debts etc. There had been cases where we had not taken over some mills, although they were closed. Because, we found that we would only be saddling the nation with uncalled for or unjustified liabilities.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The Minister in his reply referred to the closure of only textile mills in West Bengal. But the question relates to ailing industries as a whole. Is it not a fact that a large number of factories, like glass factories, and engineering concerns, particularly in Howrah district which is well known for small-scale industries, and in other parts of West Bengal, are lying closed or sick ? If so, what is their number and what steps are the government going to take to reopen them ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : The hon. Member is correct. The closed mills are not only textile mills but others also; but the question related to the textile mills. On 1.4.71 in West Bengal 336 textile and other mills were closed. 88 of them were re-opened by 31.12.71 and, therefore, the number came down to 232. The workers who get employment on account of re-opening numbered 27,920. By 3.4.72 the number of closed mills came down further to 161, which means another 71 were opened, giving employment to approximately 13,000 people. Hence, our effort is continuous. I may also inform the hon. Member that during the period 1.1.71 to 18.4.71 we had investigated 7 non-textile cases.

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA : May I know how many textile mills have been taken over by the National Textile Corporation and by the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : So far as the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation is concerned, I am afraid, I have not got the figures. The Textile Corporation has so far taken over 45 textile mills.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : May I know whether the government propose to take some of these ailing industries in the identified backward areas where though the industries have been started, they have not been doing well. If so may I know whether any special consideration is shown to such of those industries in the identified backward areas ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-DHURY : Whenever we take up a closed mill we do not make any distinction between backward and other areas. But when we take the final decision certainly, one of the considerations is the backwardness of that area.

Radio Station Trichur

*664. **SHRI C. JANARDHANAN :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to raise the present status of the Radio Station at Trichur to an independent Broadcasting Station; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is expected to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) September, 1972.

SHRI C. JANARDHAN : Thank you. I have no supplementaries.

SHRI R. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI : May I know whether the government propose to raise the status of the Alleppy radio station, as the most powerful station in South India ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has gone from Trichur to Alleppy.

SHRI R. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI : Since all the Trichur programmes are relayed

by the Alleppy station, it is a related question.

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY : In Alleppy we have a 100 kw medium wave transmitter. If the Trichur station is up-graded, naturally, the programme will be transmitted over wide areas and most parts of Kerala will be covered.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : May I know from the Minister whether it is a fact that the Alleppy station of the AIR is defective ?

MR. SPEAKER : This question does not arise out of the main question, which was about Trichur station.

टेलीविजन सेटों के निर्माण में वृद्धि

*665. डा० सकुटा प्रसाद : क्या प्रधानमंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार टेलीविजन सेटों के निर्माण में वृद्धि करने का है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार ने इस बारे में सम्बन्धित कम्पनी को कोई आदेश दिये हैं; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो किस कम्पनी को और कितने उत्पादन के लिये ?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त) : (क) से (ग). एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा जाता है।

(क) जी हाँ, संस्वीकृत धारिता/क्षमता 40,000 टी० बी० सेट प्रतिवर्ष से बढ़ाकर 2,28,000 सेट प्रतिवर्ष कर दी गई है।

(ख) तथा (ग). संगठित क्षेत्र में उन सरकारी तथा निजी क्षेत्र के युनिटों के नाम जिन्हें सेटों की संख्या के साथ टी० बी० सेट बनाने के लिये औद्योगिक लाइसेंस/आवश्यक जारी किये गये हैं नीचे सारणी में अंकित हैं। इन युनिटों को 1,10,000 सेटों को धारिता नियत करने के अतिरिक्त 1,18,000 सेटों को धारिता के लिये लघु-मध्यम क्षेत्र में 45 युनिटों को प्राधिकृत किया गया है।