

में बंगलिन कर के बहु पैसा बें माहबेरिया के जाना चाहते हैं ?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : मुझे इसकी जानकारी नहीं है ।

श्री कानेश्वर सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इसका उत्तर तो मिलना चाहिये ।

Mr. Speaker: He has no answer for that question. How can I help it?

श्री कानेश्वर सिंह : बाद में सब जानकारी हासिल कर के हल को दे सकते हैं ।

Shri P. Venkatasubbalah: May I know what effective measures Government have taken to ensure that the profits earned by the industrialists by setting up factories with the collaboration of the foreign Governments by the steady inflow of their assets there would come back to this country?

Shri Dinesh Singh: That is provided in the scheme when they place the scheme before us for approval.

Modernisation of Jute Mills

*694. Shri Ram Kishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the steps taken to modernise the Jute Mills with a view to improving their working?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

In the matter of allocation of foreign exchange, the needs of modernisation of jute industry have been given priority. Special mention may be made of the Self-Financing Scheme introduced in 1968 to facilitate import of essential machinery for jute mills.

Government have extended long-term loans totalling Rs. 600 lakhs to various jute mills for modernisation

and rehabilitation through the agency of the National Industrial Development Corporation.

With the encouragement given to the manufacture of jute mill machinery within the country, at present a wide range of such machinery for the preparatory and spinning sections is manufactured indigenously. Plans are being pushed ahead for starting the manufacture of some of the remaining items of machinery such as jute cards, modern looms etc.

As a result of the steps taken towards modernisation, the spinning and preparatory sections have been modernised almost fully. All the installed broad looms are being fed by modern spindles for a three-shift working. Standard looms are being fed fully by modern spindles for single shift and partly for a second shift also. Mills are expected to embark on a programme of modernisation of looms during the IV Plan.

Shri Ram Kishan Gupta: From the statement, I find that the jute mills are expected to embark on a programme of modernisation during the Fourth Five Year Plan. May I know what provision has been made for this purpose in the Fourth Plan?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I have not got the figures in the Fourth Five Year Plan. The main point about modernisation in this context was that a large part of the modernisation has already taken place. In spindleage, in respect of the fine quality, 416,708 modern spindles have been installed and the old spindles remaining are only 163,000. Similarly in the coarse type, 58,000 spindles are of the modern type and 38,000 are of the old type. This is apparently the present full capacity that they are utilising and there is provision for further modernisation as and when they require.

Shri Ram Kishan Gupta: It is mentioned in the statement that in the matter of allocation of foreign exchange, the need for modernisation

for the jute industry has been given priority. What amount has so far been allocated in terms of foreign exchange?

Shri Dinesh Singh: So far as foreign exchange release is concerned, from 1963-64 onwards it was Rs. 4.98 crores, then Rs. 2.31 crores, then Rs. 0.31 crores, then Rs. 0.13 crores and Rs. 0.11 crores.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: There are two jute mills, one is the Sahjanwa Mills and another M.D. Jute Mills at Kanpur. One is facing closure and the other is under liquidation. Is it a fact that Rs. 10 lakhs was paid to the proprietor of M.D. Jute Mills? May I know whether this money has been used for another project? Has any inquiry been made and are Government likely to take over the M.D. Jute Mills?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I do not know about the specific mill. I have to find out. The amount that has been allocated has been utilised....

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What about the second part?

Mr. Speaker: Second part also he has to find out.

Shri Dinesh Singh: I shall place this before you and then leave it to you to decide. First these general questions are raised and then specific questions are raised about particular mills. Then it becomes difficult to come prepared with details about the hundreds of mills. If notice is given or hon. Members write to me, I can make enquiries and let them know. In the past, we have been generally discussing these things. When a specific question is put about a particular mill, we are always expected to provide details later.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This particular question concerning the M.D. Jute mills of Kanpur was tabled and answered in this House many times by the hon. Minister, not by him but

by his predecessor. But just because a new Minister has taken over, we cannot coin a new question. We have been asking questions about this. A committee was appointed by the Central Government to go into this matter of mismanagement of this mill and I expect a reply. He can ask for notice if he wants. But we cannot table another question. This does arise out of this.

Mr. Speaker: He has asked for notice.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: All right. I give him notice.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: According to the statement, the modernisation of the spinning and preparatory sections has been almost completed. It is proposed to undertake a programme of modernisation of the looms. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that a peculiar feature of the jute industry is that it always works below capacity? The problem here is not one of increasing production as much as one of the sale of what they produce. They are always working below capacity. May I know what is the real purpose behind this allotment of large sums of money for modernising looms since it is not a question of increasing production?

That is not the problem. So, may I know if the only purpose is to effect economies by reducing the labour complement and carrying out large-scale retrenchment of workers who have already been reduced from three to two lakhs in West Bengal alone in the course of the first three five year plans. So, why should money be wasted for this purpose?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I do not think that so far there has been much difficulty in selling the goods. We have had shortage of jute as such, and because of that it has not been possible to utilise the full capacity. Jute is now facing keen competition. There are synthetics which are coming in the field of jute goods, and therefore

it is essential the industry modernises itself and reduces the cost of production to be able to be competitive in the world. And this is one of the serious problems that we are facing today, namely competition from the synthetics.

Shrimati Lakshminkanthamma: Andhra Pradesh produces raw jute, but due to lack of milling facilities, this has to be carried to Calcutta. May I know whether Government proposes to give facilities for starting jute mills in Andhra Pradesh?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I have not seen any proposal to this effect, but if a proposal is made, we shall consider, but as I mentioned, our main difficulty is shortage of raw jute, and there is no point in going on adding to the spindleage.

श्री रत्नाक्षर शर्मा : बिहार के पूर्णिया और सहरसा जिलों में पटसन का उत्पादन काफी होता है, लेकिन पटसन के कारखाने नहीं हैं। जो एक कारखाना कटिहार में था वह भी कई वर्षों से बन्द है। अतः मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या मंत्री महोदय इस कारखाने को चलाने की कोशिश करेंगे। अगर मालिक तैयार न हों तो क्या सरकार उस कारखाने को अपने हाथ में ले कर चलाने की तैयार है ताकि उस इलाके के किसानों को पटसा बेचने में आसानी हो और उनको लाभ भी हो सके ?

श्री विनय सिंह : पूर्णिया जिसे के कई माननीय सदस्यों ने कई बातों का जिक्र किया था, लेकिन बन्द मिल के बारे में तो माननीय सदस्य ने पहली मर्तबा मेरे सामने कहा है। अब तक जो सर्वाज बा बहु यह कि वहाँ कोई नई मिल लगाई जाये। मैंने कहा था कि अगर वह मुझे विवरण भेजें तो मैं उसे देखूँगा।

Mr. Speaker: Shri Madhu Limaye.

श्री मधु लमाये : मैं एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ।

829 (A1) LSD-3.

Mr. Speaker: I have called Mr. Limaye. I looked that side, he did not get up till now.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Will you kindly sit down, all of you? That is a bad habit, when I am on my legs to get up. Please sit down.

Shri Abdul Ghani Dar: I stood thrice.

Mr. Speaker: I know. I have given you a chance, but not for every question. All friends are getting up for every question. Should I not give a chance to others also? They are also hon. Members of this House. If the same hon. Member gets up for every question, what happens? I am trying to accommodate others also.

The hon. Member who wants to put a question now was busy getting signatures. I thought he was a new Member, he did not know, but I am now pointing out that when an hon. Member is standing, they should not cross my vision. The hon. Member came to Mr. Limaye for signature, and the same Member is standing up now. He is a new Member, and I did not want to point it out at that time, but in a general way I am saying that when any hon. Member is putting a question, others should not cross the view.

Bank Advances against Stocks

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*695. Shri Madhu Limaye:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank advances against cotton stocks have been reduced by 15 per cent;

(b) the reasons for not taking this step in December, 1966 when the Essential Commodities Ordinance was passed;