

Shri Eduardo Faleiro, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism.

Shrimati Sheila Dikshit, Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Shri Biren Singh Engti, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Thank you, Sir.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Reinstatement of Textile Workers in Bombay

*21. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE †:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any memoranda regarding reinstatement of 14,000 textile workers rendered jobless as a result of take over of mills in Bombay in 1983 :

(a) whether the Government have worked out any plan for immediate reinstatement of these workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in implementation; and

(d) the role of the National Textile Corporation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Yes, Sir, However, it is not true to state that workers have been rendered jobless as a result of take over of 13 mills in Bombay. At the time of take-over, about 6,150 workers

were engaged in 5 mills which were then in production. At present, the number of employees engaged is more than 23,300. There are of course still a substantial number of workers seeking reinstatement. The National Textile Corporation was appointed as custodian for these 13 mills. The present engagement of workers is commensurate with the present utilisation of workable capacities. Besides, the reinstatement of a large number of workers is *sub-judice*.

[Translation]

SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE: Mr. Speaker Sir, it has been said in the statement by the hon. Minister that workers has been rendered jobless. I would like to ask him as to how many workers were on the rolls at the time of nationalization of these mills and how many are there at present? He has not given the correct figures, but he has said that at the time of take-over, by the Government 6,150 workers were working in 5 mills, where as today 23,300 workers are working in 13 mills. As you are saying that more than 14,000 workers are jobless, therefore you should inform us as to how many workers were on the rolls at the time of nationalization and how many are there at present?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, at the time of take-over, 5 mills were functioning partially and 6,150 workers were on the rolls. However, before the strike began, 40,039 persons were on the rolls, but today, in June 1986, 23,392 persons are working in 13 mills which are functioning under our control. The rest of the workers could not be absorbed, because we have already appointed people according to our workable capacity which is 61 or 62 per cent.

SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that those people who have been retrenched are facing several problems. In your budget also, you have said that you would provide certain benefits to them. You also said that they would be given retrenchment allowance and necessary allocation has also been made in the budget for that. However, in spite of all this, many jobless workers are still wandering in the streets of

Bombay and are literally starving, because dues of Provident Fund, Gratuity and other dues have not been paid to them as yet. I would like to know as to how long would it take to pay them their dues?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, as I said earlier, some 8,698 workers are there who have not yet received their wages. But most of these people have gone to the Industrial Courts with their complaints and as their cases have already been filed in the Industrial Courts, it would not be proper for us to take a unilateral decision.

SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE: I want to ask whether the Government has any intention of paying their dues?

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: The issue of nationalisation of these textile mills in Bombay has caused a lot of heart burning. The unemployed staff that has to be rehabilitated after nationalisation has created a very peculiar problem which has led to an explosive situation in Bombay. The Minister has resorted to the jugglery of figures. He knows the fact that thousands of workers are still unemployed. The basic purpose of nationalisation of these mills was to ensure effective functioning of these mills and to do something for the welfare of the workers who are on strike. Even now these workers are unemployed. The mills are not working to their full capacity. Thousands of cases are pending. The workers who have approached us complain that N.T.C. which is the sole custodian of these mills is not ready to settle the dues of the workers who have retired prior to the nationalisation under the garb of saying that after nationalisation this is not their responsibility. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether this is a fact and if so, what he would do to help these workers?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: The hon. Member has asked quite a few questions. In the first instance I would like to answer the last question. All the pre-take over dues will be settled only when these mills are nationalised.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: There should be a time-bound programme.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Should I now answer the question? It is a fact that 16647 workers have not yet been absorbed and as I said we have taken the number of workers according to the workable capacities of these mills. Unless these mills have enhanced workable capacities, it would not be possible to absorb any more workers.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Is it a fact that Government is proposing to establish a Rehabilitation Fund for the textile workers who are unemployed? If so, what will be the amount which the Government will be earmarking? What will be the criteria which will entitle an unemployed worker to get advantage of it? Will the unemployed workers of these 13 mills which are under NTC for over three years be falling under the category to get advantage under this scheme?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: The scheme is that Rs.10 crores have been allocated for this purpose and the payment will be made on the basis of the workers last wages drawn. In the first year the worker will be paid 75% of the wages; in the second year 50% and in the third year 25%. As far as the date of applicability of payment is concerned, this will not be the date from 1983.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: I asked about the 13 mills—will the workers of these 13 mills be getting advantage or not? You have not replied to that.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: The question of payment to the workers working in the mills does not arise.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: This is the aftermath of the textile policy. It is not only in Bombay, but in Ahmadabad, Kanpur, Delhi and other places. About 1.5 lakh workers are out of their jobs because of the Textile Policy of the Government. And here, my categorical question is this. Nationalisation has been done about 3 1/2 years back and prior to nationalisation even 4 mills were closed; so, it is not because of strike. Even after the closure, 18,000 workers are out of jobs for 3 years now. After the NTC take-over, the full gratuity of back period has not been paid to the workers. They are

not going to get it. You promise that it will be given; but, by the time you give this, 50 per cent of the workers will die. You have given assurance that they will be compensated and rehabilitated. What happened to that assurance? When the people would have died, whom are you going to give the compensation? And now, Sir, the nationalised mills are doing it with new machinery. And I am putting a categorical question. Now the contracts have started, I have got about 7 cases where the contracts are there. In hand with the union and the Government they are having contracts, so, this is the fate of the textile workers in the city. My 2 questions are these: How soon will the compensation be paid and the contracts stopped? Then the third thing is, when they will be rehabilitated and compensated.

AN HON MEMBER: There should be Half-an-Hour discussion on this.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: As far as the question of gratuity is concerned, the gratuity has been paid to the workers and the amount paid so far is about Rs 9 crores and the gratuity has been paid also for the total length of their service even before take-over.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. The Minister has already stated while replying to the question of Shri Murlidhara Deora that when the mills have been nationalised, those benefits which would have accrued to them, would not be available to the workers in these 13 mills which are already taken over. Now, Sir, is it not a fact that if you take such an attitude, unfortunately and unnecessarily, an anti-nationalisation attitude will be developed and that will be harmful to the general policies of the Government? So, in view of this, will you revise that attitude and not discriminate between the workers of the nationalised mills and the workers in other mills?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, there is no question of discrimination. But, there has to be a cut-off year and cut-off time for the payment of this compensation.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question, No.22-Shri Narayana Chaubey.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: You kindly help me, Sir. My question is on Jute and the answer is not fully **nor is it fully true.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: It is unparliamentary.

(Interruptions)

It should be expunged. It is unparliamentary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: I think he is expecting to be included in the Cabinet. Hence he is over-worried! The answer is like this. I remember a Bengali poem.

*Ekhan theke marlam teer,
Laglo Kala gachche,
Jharjhareya rakto parre,
Chokh galo re baba*

"I throw an arrow from this place;
It hits a plantain tree;
Blood starts flowing continuously;
Oh, my Father, I lose my eye,"

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Let the answer be given by the Minister. The Question itself has not been put. He has to put the question first.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have understood the question as well as the answer.

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: All right. I put the question now. Q No.22.

Import of P.V.C. Granule

*22. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: