

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2239
ANSWERED ON- 13/12/2024

CLOSED TEXTILE MILLS IN PUDUCHERRY

2239. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether is it a fact that three Government owned textile mills in Puducherry have closed and employees of the mills are yet to get their benefits, if so, action taken to settle their pensionary dues;
- (b) whether there is plan to restore the old three textile mills and pave way for employment opportunities;
- (c) whether Government would consider to allot one textile park to Puducherry by utilising the facilities/ space available to three closed mills for the purpose; and
- (d) if not, whether Government will consider such proposal from Government of Puducherry positively, considering large unemployment and lack of major industries in Puducherry?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES
(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a) & (b): In the Union Territory of Puducherry, National Textile Corporation Limited (NTC) has one mill namely Cannanore Spinning & Weaving Mills, Mahe. Presently, due to unavailability of working capital and other financial constraints operation in all NTC mills including this mill has been suspended since March, 2020. However, in order to protect the interest and welfare of employees, full wages of the employees of the mill had been paid upto June, 2023. For subsequent period, the workmen have been paid 50% of wages during the period of suspension of operations i.e. upto September, 2024 and the payment of gratuity has been settled to the retired employees up to July, 2024.

Besides the above mill, two textile mills namely Shri Bharthi Mills and Swadeshi Cotton Mills in Puducherry were transferred by NTC to the Union Territory of Puducherry in the year 2005 under a Memorandum of Understanding. As informed by Government of Puducherry, these two mills are closed due to continuous heavy losses. The issue concerning settlement of pensionary benefits of the employees of these Mills falls under the domain of Administration of UT, Puducherry and they have been already advised to take appropriate action in this regard.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Textiles has launched PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Parks (MITRAs) scheme for a period 2021-22 to 2027-28. The State Governments were requested to submit their proposals for setting up of PM MITRA Park. Accordingly, the Government has already finalized seven sites, one each in the state of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for setting up of PM MITRA parks as per the proposals received from them. As regards, the two transferred mills, it is for the UT of Puducherry to take a call in this matter for development of Textile Park by utilizing the land of these mills.
