

**The Energy and Industry Committee of the People's Assembly
Recommends:**

**Cracking down Strictly on Attempts to Dump the Egyptian Market
with Smuggled Textiles**

**Urging the French Government to Cancel Half of Al Nasr
Fertilizers' Debt**

The Industry and Energy Committee of the People's Assembly headed by Dr. Amin Mubarak prepared a report on its activity during the last parliamentary session (number 87).

The report tackles issues related to technological development, electricity, energy, transport, petrol and minerals and the discussions of 25 queries and requests for information, declared Engineer **Dr. Nader Riad**, consultant for the Industry and Energy Committee of the People's Assembly.

He announced that the committee had discussed the industry's strategy and the prospects of the twenty first century, and the problems that face the Egyptian industry internally and externally and inhibit its competitive capability. The Ministers of Industry and Military Production and a number of businessmen participated in the discussions.

The committee allocated three meetings to the discussion of the problems of weaving and spinning and ready-made clothing industries, and the related issue of putting in place a clear-cut policy with regards to cotton.

The committee recommended cracking down strictly on attempts to dump the Egyptian market with foreign and smuggled textiles as a necessary

procedure. The government has responded to the recommendation to establish a fund to adjust supply prices.

Dr. Nader Riad added that the committee gave particular importance to technology and the future of industrial development in Egypt. The ministers, heads of research centers and scientists participated in laying the basis of the national project for technological renaissance, in response to President Hosny Mubarak's request.

The committee tackled the factories' stand with regard to implementing the Environmental Protection Law, especially in the General Business Sector, and its regularization program. It also discussed the problems of Al Nasr Company for fertilizers and chemical industries in Suez.

It recommended fixing financial problems, urging the French government to cancel half the debt (176.5 million Francs), assisting the company in financing environment projects and reimbursing the government through increasing customs, and considering moderation in the prices of gas and energy.

The committee commended the bill on electricity distribution companies, the government's efforts to protect the consumer and the establishment of an authority to organize the electricity sector to guarantee fair prices of energy and the taking measurements of which was previously a source of complaints by consumers. It also recommended that it starts work immediately.

It affirmed that the government's share in this crucial sector never falls below 51%, with only 49% being privatized.

The committee drew up reports on the problems of Butagas and its circulation, especially during feasts and in the winter, and the setting up of a wind farm in Za'faranah in the Gulf of Suez. The committee did some fact

finding activity concerning Al Wadi Al Gadeed Phosphate Project (Abu Tartur). It prepared a report on its future vision and the ideal way to reconsider achieving maximal benefit from the project.

It recommended not pumping any new investments within the framework of this project at the current time, and restricting expenditure to research on removing impurities from the raw material.

The committee explained at the end of its report its vision of the Egyptian Industry Development Program in cooperation with the European Union.

The committee commended the agreements concerning the use of 45 bills on searching for petrol, gas and oil, beginning to pump natural gas for the first time into the governorate of North Sinai and lighting the first flame using gas in Ismailia.