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Some Remarks On The Labor Protection Of Workers In The Silk Industry During The Years Of Soviet Rule

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ABSTRACT

This article highlights and describes the characteristic features of the silk industry in the Soviet time. Based on the analysis of archival sources, it has been found that in the Soviet period, attention to the silk industry was increasing, but there was no proper labor protection in this branch.

KEYWORDS

Sericulture, enterprises, workshops, industry, workers, labor protection, occupational diseases.

INTRODUCTION

During the years of Soviet rule, the role and prestige of industries such as silkworms in the state economy increased. Revenues from the silk industry (especially the Fergana Valley) have been growing year by year. Uzbekistan produces more than 50% of the country's raw materials [1].

During the Soviet era, industrial enterprises were supplied with raw materials by the government. From the first years of Soviet rule, Turkipak focused on attracting women to the silkworm industry (from the revitalization of silkworm seeds to the cultivation of raw materials) [2]. The republican silk weaving

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industry had 160,000 workers in 1925, and it developed in Margilan, Khojand, Samarkand, Kokand and Tashkent.

In 1928-1932, the total number of workers and employees in the Uzbek SSR increased almost 2.5 times. The share of Uzbeks in the Uzbek labor force increased in 1928-1932. In particular, their share in the silk industry was 78 percent. There is also an increase in the share of women in the silk industry. In 1937, for example, their share in the silk industry was 58 percent.

As the Center's income in the silk industry has increased, a number of problems have arisen in the enterprises of the sector. In the first years of Soviet rule, the existing normative working conditions for workers in factories and plants were not created. The same situation is observed in the processes from the stage of cultivation of silkworm seeds to the processing of raw materials in industry. In particular, in the case of pre-silk production, the health of workers in the industry was affected by adverse factors such as air dust and increased humidity.

In particular, there were problems with labor protection in the silk industry. For example, in 1927-1928, the construction of the existing factories of "Turkipak" was not completed. Also, the heat supply pipes and air ventilation systems in the factory building of the Margilan silk factory were not fully equipped, and the workers were not fully housed [4].

Also, labor hygiene was not sufficiently studied not only in Uzbekistan, but also in the production of silk throughout the Union. It is known that silk production had its own working conditions and technology, and the worker in the industry had specific occupational diseases. Shortness of breath (bronchial asthma) was more common in silkworm seed factory workers, and diseases such as occupational dermatitis and angina were more common in non-automated, mechanically operated silk factory workers [5]. In particular, for two years (1928, 1929) specialists of the Republican Dispensary studied the labor protection of seed plants on the example of workers of the Tashkent grenzavoda. As a result, when the health of factory workers was examined, it was found that the upper respiratory tract was damaged due to the fact that many of them had been repeatedly infected with diseases such as acute influenza, pharyngitis, and laryngitis.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The causes of these diseases were related to the occupations of the workers. This is because the labor protection of workers at the Tashkent grenzavod was in poor condition, and during the 8-hour working day, the building where the workers worked was not equipped with ventilation equipment. The humidity in the building where the workers worked was high. In addition, the process of sorting the cocoons (5.6 mg of dust) and the dust coming out of the butterfly's wings (4 to 31.7 mg) would increase the amount of dust in the air. Also, the ceilings and footings of these buildings were not wooden planks [6].

During the years of Soviet rule, the problems related to the labor protection of factory workers remained unresolved for years. It is known that automatic cocoon processing in the union began in 1958. This procedure was first introduced in Uzbekistan at the Margilan Silk Factory, and by the 1960s it had become widespread [7].

From 1958 to 1960, the number of workers suffering from angina and purulent skin diseases increased in 6 silk mills and factories in

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the country [8]. Especially in the Fergana Valley, there has been an increase in the number of people suffering from occupational dermatitis and angina, with previously unreported occupational diseases associated with the growth of silk production [9]. Between 1959 and 1960, factory workers with angina had a rate of 22-24 per 100 people.

If the occupational diseases of cocoon spinners are divided into three groups, the first are those suffering from skin disease-dermatitis. Dermatitis had become a problem that needed to be treated and addressed as early as the 1930s and 1940s. In particular, since 1949, the incidence of purulent skin diseases among the workers of the Bukhara and Fergana silk factories has increased [11].

By 1965, this occupational disease was no longer a serious threat to professionals. The second and third groups studied the working conditions and health of workers, the causes of illness, and diseases caused by bacteria, including diseases such as angina, chronic tonsillitis, caused by cocoon spinning and steam boiler water [12].

The current state of labor protection in the silk industry of workers of Tashkent and Fergana silk factories and Margilan silk factories was studied in 1964 by experts. It was found that the basis of occupational diseases of workers in enterprises is mainly due to the large amount of dust generated during the cocooning and sorting of cocoons. In this process, the high amount of dust in the air inside the facility or building has aggravated the sanitary and hygienic condition and working conditions of the workers [13]. For example, when studying the volume (calibration) and sorting shops of Margilan silk factory, the average amount of dust in the air ranged from 2.2 to 12.5 mg / m3.

The increase in the amount of dust in the air has led to the development of shortness of breath (bronchial asthma) in cocoon spinners. Sanitary and hygienic issues were discussed in the institutions, but no practical work was done, and many decisions remained on paper [14].

In addition, there was an excess of harmful chemical elements in the enterprises of the industry, which negatively affected the health of workers and employees. In particular, in the 30s and 40s of the XX century, the amount of ammonia and hydrogen sulfide (hydrogen sulfide) in the cocoon spinning mills of the republic increased by 4-5 times.

An increase in the amount of ammonia and hydrogen in the air has been reported when automated lathes are used, not mechanically. For example, in the shops of the Margilan silk factory it was found that the amount of hydrogen sulfide is 15-20 mg / m3 (usual amount is 10 mg / m3), the amount of mmiak is 25-28 mg / m3 (usual amount is 20 mg / m3) [15].

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

When studying the level of air pollution in the cocoon spinning shops of the Fergana silk factory, it did not differ from the situation at the Margilan silk factory. At the Tashkent Silk Factory, it was found that the release of mercury into the water as a result of cleaning the automated machines in the shops damaged the health of workers. Also, when studying the sanitary-bacteriological indicators of water in the basin and barrels of the Margilan silk factory, it was found that their water differs sharply from the water in open basins in terms of composition, the presence of toxins, high levels of pollution [16]. However, the complete removal of mercury from the equipment in the facilities required a great deal

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of labor, making it almost impossible to remove the toxins that had accumulated in the cracks of the automatic equipment used over the years. Problems such as continuous air pollution in buildings that have been in continuous use for years were pressing issues of their time that needed to be addressed [17].

In addition, the increase in air temperature due to 10, 12, 14 hours of operation of automated equipment in cocoon spinning shops, the rise in humidity in the air ensured that the ventilation equipment could not work properly. This situation has led to air pollution in the workshops. Under such conditions, shop workers in the industry were forced to work 7 hours a day. Working in hot and humid weather was a major cause of workers suffering from cardiovascular disease. Humidity of the air temperature was high in the automated shops of silk factories and silk mills. Workers not only worked in such unsanitary conditions, they were even forced to drink tea or water in the shop itself. In 1962, the doctor, then doctor of medical sciences T.Z. Hasanov proved that the pathogenic form of enterococcal microbes - microbes that enter the water from the aggregates in the cocoon spinning shops in silkworm breeding - causes angina, endocarditis, cystitis and similar diseases [18].

During the years of Soviet rule, the problems of labor protection in the industry were repeatedly raised. In particular, on September 5-6, 1962, at the initiative of the Central Asian Silk Research Institute (SANIISh), a special scientific-practical conference was organized at the Andijan Medical Institute in the Fergana Valley [19]. A scientific-practical conference on sanitary and hygienic issues was held in Margilan these days. The conference was attended by more than a hundred medical workers from Fergana, Andijan, Bukhara, Khorezm and other regions. The conference discussed issues related to labor protection in industries such as cotton and silk. The conference focused on access to decontaminated water at the Margilan Silk Factory and Fergana Silk Factory, the introduction of automatic cocoon recycling without recirculation, the solution of the problem of reconstruction (reconstruction) of air ventilation equipment. Issues such as the occurrence and prevention of shortness of breath (bronchial asthma) in the silk workshops of institutions in consultation with physicians [20] were also raised. However, no effective measures have been taken to address the issues raised.

When studying the sanitary and hygienic condition of the Samarkand silk factory (1982), many shortcomings were observed in the ventilation system of the factory shops. Also, the factory workers are not provided with special clothing and special protective equipment, as well as dressing rooms, wardrobes and washrooms. In particular, the internal temperature of factory buildings and production shops was not moderate.

The same problems could be seen in factories in all regions of the republic. Many workers have suffered from occupational diseases due to the lack of labor protection in existing ladder factories. For example, on June 14, 1982, Periya Saytumerova, an employee of the Samarkand Silk Factory, was fined 93 rubles for losing 80 percent of her ability to work due to an occupational disease. 90 kop. pension was assigned [21].

CONCLUSION

In short, silk products in the country are made by workers and employees of factories and mills. The income from the silk-growing

districts has been increasing year by year. However, the enterprises where this income was managed by the Center were not used to improve the working conditions of workers. Although some work has been done to provide housing for the company's employees and to place their children in kindergarten, the direct labor protection of the workers has been deplorable. As a result, the emergence of some chronic diseases among them has become widespread. The government did not address these issues in a timely manner.

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