

Rana Plaza Mystery statements

Bangladesh's textile industry has experienced rapid growth. In 1985 only 500,000 people were employed in the industry, it has grown to 4 million. The industry is worth \$20 billion, nearly double its size in January 2011.

Mostafizar came from the rural area of Rangpur to Dhaka in hope of a better life for his family and to get a better paying job. He was happy when his wife got a job at a factory inside Rana Plaza.

The workers who sew clothes are amongst the lowest paid in the industry anywhere in the world, some only get £25 a month.

Bangladesh is one of the most **densely populated** countries on in the world and therefore the land is limited and expensive. This leads extra floors being built without permission.

Under Bangladesh building law new buildings need a certificate stating they are safe, before people can begin working in them. It is estimated that 4-5000 buildings are built each year but only six certificates have ever been issued.

Buildings are built on the wrong kind of land using cheap materials. Bangladesh doesn't have a strong education system: many children go to work instead of attending school; therefore there is a lack of good architects to design safe buildings.

The Rana Plaza was originally six stories high it contained a shopping centre and clothing factories. However Mr Rana illegally added two extra floors which were also used as factories.

The workers lived in fear of losing their jobs. They complete overtime and do not complain about the terrible working conditions.

Workers complained about cracks in the walls of the factories the day before it collapsed. They were told to get back to work.

Bangladesh citizens only pay tax if they can earn above a certain amount: very few people will earn enough to pay tax.

The tax received by the government is very little. It is spent on improving infrastructure, healthcare rather than building inspectors.

When they visit building inspectors are often bribed by the factory owners. This may have happened at the Rana Plaza, as one of the factories was given an A* rating for safety.

After his building collapsed Mr Rana ran away from Dhaka. The police and local residents conducted a man-hunt and found him, four days later, attempting to flee Bangladesh and enter India. He was arrested on the spot: however he may only face seven years in prison.

Bangladesh's main advantage is its low cost. Labour is a one fifth of the textile wage in China. The lack of environmental protection means the TNCs don't have to worry about pollution.

The TNCs contract out their work to the factories. This is so they are not legally responsible for what happens it is the factory owners' responsibility.

The UK has been in a recession since 2008. The cost of living is rising and people do not have as much spending money.

On April 24th 2013 the Rana Plaza building collapsed. There were 4000 people inside the building, 2,500 were injured and 1,217 died.

Primark have paid the workers £130 compensation. Primark is the only TNC to pay the workers any compensation.

The government have declared it will pay £13,000 compensation to the injured and families of those who died.

Mohammed Hanif died in the collapse his wife no longer knows how she is going to feed their daughters. 1 in 3 families have not received any compensation.

The government are only giving out compensation when a family has proof (usually DNA) that the family member worked in the Rana Plaza. 300 people were buried without identification. DNA samples have been taken from families but Bangladesh does not have a computer system to be able to match them.

Rehena lost her leg during the collapse. She is already looking for another job in a clothing factory. She lost her parents 3 years ago and has younger brothers and sisters to support.

Last Christmas I bought three presents from Primark using my pocket money. My mum also bought presents from H&M because their clothes are cheap, and there are a lot of people to buy presents for.