

taken up. If the hon. Members feel, I have no objection in these issues being raised. But the Special Mentions of 19 Members will not be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no, only Special Mentions...*(Interruptions)*... I have told you but you are repeating the same thing. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. Except the Special Mentions nothing will go on record. इम्पार्टेंस है। उन मेम्बर्स की भी इम्पार्टेंस है जिन्होंने अपने-अपने दिए हुए हैं। Mr. Eduardo Flaeiro. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Need to Implement Wheat for Oil agreement with Iraq

SHRI EDUARDO FLAEIRO (Goa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of India has entered into an agreement with Iraq to sell 'wheat for oil' and the implementation of the agreement was to begin in January last but has not begun so far. The fact is that the agreement needs to be approved by the UN Security Council because of sanctions against Iraq and the Government of India has not been pressing for this approval with a sense of urgency. The agreement is in our interest as we are presently burdened with about 27 million tonnes of wheat as against the buffer requirement of 19 million tonnes and foreign exchange outflow is increasing everyday to pay for oil. Government should take immediate steps under article 50 of the UN Charter and issue necessary instructions to our Permanent Mission at the UN to get the agreement ratified by the Security Council so that it becomes operational without further delay. Thank you.

Tornado devastation in Bhadrak (Orissa) on 24th February, 2001

DR. M.N. DAS (Orissa): This is regarding Tornado devastation in Bhadrak District of Orissa that occurred on 24th February, 2001. When the entire coastal Orissa was devastated by a super-cyclone in October, 1999, the small town of Bhadrak and its adjoining areas remained submerged under deep water for weeks together, causing untold suffering to inhabitants of the place. While the district was slowly recovering from the devastating calamity that occurred during the last year, only two days ago, on 24th February, 2001, a severe tornado hit the district, causing death of several persons, destroying many houses and public institutions. Information regarding loss of life and property is still not available. The Government of Orissa, faced with a serious drought situation in tribal-inhabited Western

Orissa, and troubled with lack of financial resources, will find it hard to assist the tornado-hit Bhadrak. I appeal, therefore, to the Union Government kindly to rescue the people in this moment of dire distress. The Union Government is requested to despatch relief material such as tents, medicine, clothes and other needs of the victims of tornado. As we observed the scenes of havoc, the agony of the people, uprooting of houses and trees on television, we could realise the depth of the human misery. I hope, the Government of Orissa is doing whatever possible, but I still feel that the moment demands the Centre's attention so that relief operations are not delayed or neglected. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kartar Singh Duggal - Absent.

Stepmotherly treatment to Handloom Sector

श्री रुमान्डला रामचन्द्रय्या (आन्ध्र प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, मैं केन्द्र सरकार का ध्यान देश के हथकरघा बुनकरों के साथ किये जा रहे सौतेले व्यवहार पर दिलाना चाहता हूँ ।

महाशय, सरकार बुनकर समाज के उत्थान में पूर्णतया असफल रही है । अकेले आन्ध्र प्रदेश में तीन करोड़ से ज्यादा परिवार गरीबी के दलदल में धंसते चले जा रहे हैं । विभिन्न हथकरघा इकाइयों का 13 करोड़ से भी ज्यादा का बकाया एपको के पास है । आन्ध्र प्रदेश के बुनकर कॉटन और सिल्क की कीमतों में वृद्धि से बुरी तरह प्रभावित हैं । उनकी मांग है कि सरकार इन कच्चे मालों को रियायती दरों पर बुनकरों को मुहैया कराए । महाशय, करीब तीस लाख लोग हथकरघा तथा हस्तशिल्प उद्योगों पर आश्रित हैं । सरकार का यह कर्तव्य है कि उन्हें उनकी जीविका से अलग नहीं करे । ऐसी सूचना है कि सरकार ने पिछले दो वर्षों में हथकरघा क्षेत्र को 45 करोड़ रुपया आवंटित किया है । 1998-99 के वित्तीय वर्ष में केन्द्र सरकार ने साढ़े तीन करोड़ रुपया आवंटित किया है, लेकिन वह आज तक इस क्षेत्र के लिए वितरित नहीं किया जा सका है । राज्य सरकार ने हथकरघा क्षेत्र के उत्थान के लिए सौ करोड़ रुपये का एक प्रस्ताव केन्द्र सरकार के पास भेजा है । लेकिन इस दिशा में अभी तक कुछ भी नहीं किया गया है ।

आन्ध्र प्रदेश तथा कर्नाटक के बुनकरों ने अपनी मांगों को लेकर आन्दोलन करना शुरू कर दिया है और यह आन्दोलन पूरे देश को अपनी चपेट में ले सकता है ।

इसलिए मैं सरकार से आग्रह करूंगा कि बुनकरों के विकास के लिए एक ठोस प्रस्ताव तैयार करके उसे अमल में लाया जाए । धन्यवाद ।

Medical facilities for retired employees

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, it is a good step that the Government of India has started many schemes, like the Antyodaya Anna Yojana and the Annapurna Yojna for the people living below the