

of India should not allow the handloom weavers to die as had happened in the year 1991-92, but it should provide at least Rs. 200 crores to arrange the sale of accumulated stocks of Janata Cloth and other general varieties in A.P. and other States, allowing a reduction of 50 per cent in their prices which have gone up by 75 per cent due to unusual hike in yarn prices running up to 75 to 100 per cent. The measures taken by the Government to bring down the prices of yarn were not successful and the only way to bring down the prices of yarn is to suspend the export of 75 million kgs. of yarn and to direct the advanced licence holders and the export-oriented units to import cotton for production of yarn to be exported and they, along with other producers of yarn, shall produce hank yarn to the extent of 50 per cent of their marketable output to be sold inside the country or outside the country. The spinning mills which have come into being recently after the liberalised industrial policy should be directed to use man-made fibres for production of yarn till the present position of cotton is eased. The Apex Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society has utilised fully the credit limits of Rs. 50 crores and Rs. 9 crores, sanctioned to it by the NABARD for marketing of cloth and purchase of yarn. The State Government should come to the rescue of the Society by giving a guarantee of at least Rs. 120 crores, as recommended by the A.P. Handloom Commissioner, to enable it borrow further amounts from the NABARD, and the Central Government should give an advance of Rs. 25 crores, as requested by the Society, to carry on purchase and distribution of yarn and procurement and sale of handloom products. Only then will the lakhs of handloom weavers in the cooperative societies be able to receive work; otherwise, they will go to bed hungry, with its consequences. A delay in this regard will result in untoward incidents which are to be prevented by timely help from the Government. Due to the indifferent attitude of the Government towards the suffering masses of handloom weavers, I appeal to this august House to appoint a Committee to consider the present pathetic condition of handloom weavers and suggest measures for their immediate relief. Thank you.

Release of Transport subsidy to backward States, particularly to Arunachal Pradesh

SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM (Arunachal Pradesh): Madam, my Special Mention is regarding the release of transport subsidies to backward States including Arunachal Pradesh. Madam, it is a fact that the removal of regional imbalance and industrialisation of backward areas has been one of the cardinal aims of the Government policy. Therefore, the Government has adopted transport subsidy system in many backward States including Arunachal Pradesh. But today many backward States, particularly the North-Eastern States, are not being paid transport subsidies. The reasons are not known to us. The norm adopted for payment of transport subsidy is said to be that the State Government will initially make payment and obtain its reimbursement from the Central Government against this scheme. In this connection, I would like to say that the case of Arunachal Pradesh is quite different from other States of the country because Arunachal Pradesh is solely dependent on Central assistance as it has no revenue of its own. Therefore, naturally, one cannot expect that State Governments like Arunachal Pradesh would be in a position to act as per the guidelines that reimbursement would be obtained from the Central Government after the payment is made by the State Government. However, in the recent past the Arunachal Pradesh Government had paid more than three crores of rupees to the entrepreneurs as transport subsidy by borrowing from the Arunachal Pradesh Industrial Development and Financial Corporation. But till today this amount has not been reimbursed by the Central Government in spite of its own commitment. I feel that due to its industrial and economic backwardness, apart from its financial and budgetary constraints, Arunachal Pradesh has to be treated differently from other States and the amount of transport subsidy should be placed at the disposal of the State Government to enable it to distribute the same to the eligible entrepreneurs after completion of the required legal formalities and submission of relevant documents.

Meanwhile, a huge claim of transport subsidy to the tune of Rs. 24 crores made by the State of Arunachal Pradesh has got accumulated in the last four years. Therefore, any further delay in the matter will have a negative effect on the various measures initiated by the State Government for the fast industrialisation of the State.

Therefore, I appeal to the Central Government, through this august House, to release the transport subsidy to Arunachal Pradesh and to the other North-Eastern States as early as possible. Thank you.

SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN (Assam): Madam, I also associate myself with the points raised by Mr. Nyodek Yonggam. These States are suffering in all major areas like communication, transport and other areas. So, the points made by him are very important and genuine and they should be attended to by the Union Government immediately.

SHRI KARMA TOPDEN (Sikkim): Madam Vice-Chairman, I also wish to associate myself with the issues raised by my hon. friend. Sikkim is also suffering from similar problems as that of Arunachal Pradesh. While we are very enthusiastic about liberalisation policy, open market, competition, etc., we are concerned about the remote States which suffer from locational disadvantages. There is a lack of market centres. There is a lack of resources and infrastructure. In this era of liberalisation and competition the gap between the mainland and the States in the border is slowly increasing. So, we need not only transport subsidy but also much more meaningful aid from the Central Government to help these States to come up like other States. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I adjourn the House for lunch for one hour.

The House then adjourned for lunch at forty-three minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at fifty-one minutes past two of the clock, **The Vice-Chairman (Shri Md. Salim) in the Chair:**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now we will take up the Budget (General), 1995-96.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 1995-96

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श्री संच प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मेरा एक सुझाव है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): किस बारे में?

श्री संच प्रिय गौतम: उपसभाध्यक्ष जी बजट पर बहस के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम इसकी केवल एक औपचारिकता पूरी कर रहे हैं क्योंकि लोक सभा से बजट पास हो गया है और मैं दूसरी प्रार्थना यह कर रहा हूँ कि पांच मंत्रालय हमारे विचाराधीन हैं ... (व्यवधान)...

तो मेरा सुझाव यह है कि इसे आज पास कर दिया जाए और मंत्रालयों के संबंध में चर्चा प्रारंभ कर दी जाए क्योंकि समय बर्बाद करने में कोई फायदा नहीं है।

श्री ईश दत्त यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपाध्यक्ष जी, मैं हस्तक्षेप नहीं कर रहा हूँ, इनमें और उनमें समझौता हो गया है कुछ बातों में।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, I agree with him because this time we have to discuss five Ministries. We have also to pass the Finance Bill which was passed by Lok Sabha. It has to be passed quickly. Today we can sit a little late and complete these things.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): If hon. Members agree, some Members can sacrifice their speeches. They can withdraw their names. Those who want to speak can be brief. Now, Mr. Rahman Khan.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget proposals presented by the hon. Finance Minister for 1995-96. I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for presenting the Budget for the fifth consecutive year. Thereby, he has created history. In his opening remarks, the hon. Finance Minister has rightly analysed the task given to him by the nation. When Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao assumed the leadership of the nation, his task was to save the nation from the relentless slide, abysmal fall in production, severe inflation and deepening poverty. I quote