

[श्री सत्य प्रकाश मलवीय]

है और सरकारी देय अगर वह नहीं दे पाता तो वह बंद हो जाता है। इसलिए मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि इस ओर भी सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए। अगर सरकार इस ओर ध्यान देगी और किसानों की स्थिति में सुधार करने का प्रयास करेगी तो मैं समझता हूँ कि इस देश की जो आर्थिक हालत है उसमें सुधार की गुंजाइश होगी।

उत्समाध्यक्ष महोदय, तीसरी योजना, जिसकी ओर मैं सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ, वह योजना है संस्कार की—महिला समृद्धि योजना। . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Malaviya, it is 5 o'clock. Would you like to continue next week?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Yes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): So discussion, on the Private Members' resolution remains inconclusive.

SPECIAL MENTIONS—Contd.

Non-implementation of recommendations of inter-ministerial committee appointed by textiles ministry

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity of making a mention on the serious problems of the handloom industry affecting millions of handloom weavers all over the country.

At this outlet I thank our hon. Prime Minister for convening, for the first time in Independent India, a meeting of Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories in September last exclusively for discussing the problems of the handloom industry. I am particularly be-

holden to him for highlighting the problems of the handloom industry and exhorting the Chief Ministers to take personal interest to ensure that the benefits being given by the Government of India reach handloom weavers such as the schemes under DRDA, IRDP, TRYSEM, IAY, JRY and the handloom development centres together with quality dyeing units aimed at providing full and remunerative employment to 7.5 lakh handloom weavers capable of giving employment to 30 lakhs self-employed handloom weavers over a period of four years commencing from the year 1993-94. It is highly desirable that Central and State level Committees with committed officers and knowledgeable handloom weavers are set up to oversee the actual implementation of these developmental programs to ensure that the benefits reach the identified handloom weavers.

I submit, Sir, that Textile Ministry headed by a dynamic and dedicated leader is anxious to resolve the basic problems of supply of yarn and other inputs at regulated and reasonable prices, of free flow of adequate credit at low rates of interest and of effective enforcement of the handloom reservations to improve the living conditions of handloom weavers, who are still living below the poverty line. But the Finance Ministry is not helpful to the Ministry of Textiles in making adequate provisions in the budget, as is done for the benefit of organised and salaried sectors, who are having unions to shout slogans and make noise.

After repeated oral, written and telegraphic requests the Union Finance Minister held a meeting in his chamber on 19th August, 1992 to hear the representatives of the handloom industry. The meeting was attended by the Minister of State for Textiles and the top officers of both the Ministries.

I was given an opportunity of presenting the pending problems of handloom industry. The mill and powerloom cloths sold in the name of cut-pieces free of fiscal levies were shown. The Finance

Minister then promised to solve these problems within one month. I hoped that the Finance Ministry would find satisfactory solutions to the problems at least by the commencement of the winter session in November, 1992. The Prime Minister, who was briefed by the Ministry of Textiles about the problems raised at the meeting quietly came to the conclusion that a High Powered Committee should be appointed soon which might give a comprehensive report for providing protection and relief to handloom weavers. But finally the Ministry of Textiles constituted an Inter-ministerial committee consisting of both the Ministries of Finance and Textiles, Planning Commission and NABARD on 3rd September, 1992

The Ministry of Textiles had circulated to the Inter-Ministerial Committee a detailed note on points raised by me at the meeting held on 19 August, 1992 and also on the difficulties being experienced by the Textiles Ministry in view of the insignificant provision made in the budget for developing the handloom industry. The Inter-Ministerial Committee concluded its discussions and made recommendations in October, 1992 to help the handloom industry in matters relating to — (i) permitting the Nationalised Banks to implement the RBI Handloom Finance Scheme to provide adequate credit to the Primary Weavers' Cooperatives in certain States where the District Cooperative Central Banks are running on losses and are unable to finance the Primary Weavers' Cooperatives due to lack of own resources of finance; (ii) identifying ways of augmenting¹ credit to handloom weavers who are outside the Cooperatives through Small Industries Development Bank of India. It may not be out of place to mention here that only 20 per cent of the total 40 lakhs of handloom workers in the country are receiving work from the Cooperatives. Thus 80 per cent of the total 40 lakh handlooms working outside coops in the country are denied the opportunity of obtaining institutional

nuances. Every one of us is aware that the aim of nationalising the banks was to help the poor, but the rich, as usual, are fully availing credit from banks; (iii) abolition of Sales Tax, single and multiple and also Central tax levied on yarn and other inputs of the handloom industry; (iv) reduction of excise duty on dyes and chemicals and supply of these items at reduced rates to all recognised handloom associations or organisations!; (v) implementation of the concessions announced in the excise duty for polyester filament yarn to help the handloom industry; (vi) levy of graded excise duty on cone yarn and to ensure the implementation of the orders of the Government directing the mills to produce hank yarn for handlooms to the extent of 50 per cent of their marketable yarn; (vii) Revision of levy of excise duty on mill and powerloom cloth which is sold freely free from fiscal levies in such a way as to ensure collection of additional revenue of about Rs. 1000 crores and also to remove the cost handicap of handlooms as was stated in the 1985 Textile Policy and endorsed by the Abid Hussain Committee which had renewed the effects of implementation of the 1985 Textile Policy. This was referred to by the hon. Prime Minister on 23-2-1993 at the CPP(I) meeting and the Finance Minister was also present at the meeting; lastly, the Inter-Ministerial Committee recommended creation of a Handloom Development Fund either from the National Renewal Fund or otherwise to undertake supply of at least 25 per cent of the total requirement of yarn to the handloom industry at reasonable rates. This proposal was also accepted by the Planning Commission. The Finance Minister is silent over the suggestion of the Textile Ministry for authorising the excise officers with powers of Development Commissioners for Handlooms to effectively enforce handloom reservation as several States influenced by powerful lobbies of the powerloom industry are not keen on enforcing the reservation. This is how the Finance Ministry is functioning. Is it for the people or not? Lastly I submit through you, Sir, that our hon. Prime Minister who is committed to the welfare

[Shri Pragada Kotaiah] of handloom weavers who constitute the bulk of the weaker section, should kindly intervene and see that the Ministry of Finance implements the recommendations of the Interministerial Committee and accepts the suggestions of the Ministry of Textiles so as to help handloom weavers and others who depend upon the subsidiary occupations of the handloom industry. I appeal to the hon. Members of this August House to use their good offices and insist upon the Ministry of Finance to implement the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee to help the handloom industry.

Thank you.

श्री ग्रहमदेव शानन्द पातखान (बिहार):
उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस विशेष उल्लेख से अपने को संबद्ध करता हूँ और इसका समर्थन करता हूँ।

श्री स० एस० ग्रहलुवालिया (बिहार)
उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री प्रागदा कोटइया साहब ने जो विशेष उल्लेख हथकरघा के बारे में उठाया है यह बहुत दिनों से इस क्षेत्र में काम कर रहे हैं और बहुत महत्वपूर्ण यह मुद्दा है। पीछे प्रधान मंत्री महोदय ने भी हैडलूम वीवर्स के लिए एक पालिसी डिक्लयर की थी। उसके साथ साथ श्री कोटइया ने जिन जिन बातों की रांग की है अपने विशेष उल्लेख के माध्यम से उन्हें स्वीकार करने के लिए आप भी सरकार को निर्देश देने की कृपा करें।

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): Sir, I fully associate myself with our hon. Colleague! who has been, with missionary zeal, taking up the cause of the handloom weavers in our country and I appreciate it. This is one of his most stellar performances that I have seen in this House and the House should lend its unanimous support to the most serious issue that has been taken up by the hon. Member. Sir, in relation to that, I would also like to mention that when the Britishers, the foreigners, came to our country, we were vtry much advanced in the textile industry and the muslin that was produced in our country was imported by other countries and we were exporting them. And

in order to ensure that the textiles produced by the imperialist countries should be sold in our country, in order to make India their market, they adopted the most cruel practice of chopping the hands of the Indian handloom weavers.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Kindly conclude.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Now, Sir, there is an invisible chopping of the hands of the handloom weavers as a result of the new Economic Policy which we were discussing just now. If the present Economic Polity is followed, whatever steps the Government takes, these are not going to help the handloom weavers. So, I would request... (Interruptions)

श्री एस० एस० ग्रहलुवालिया (बिहार):
पहले आप खादी पहनना शुरू कर, हैडलूम पहनना शुरू करें।

SHRI M. A. BABY: Definitely..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): He has raised a very serious issue... (Interruptions)

SHRI M. A. BABY: I fully agree with you. At the same time... (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): No, Mr. Baby... (Interruptions)

SHRI M. A. BABY: Even if the Government is not going to reverse its Economic Policy, which I ask for, the Central Government should take some special steps to protect the interests of the hand-loom weavers. This is my humble request.

डा० कागुनीराम (बिहार): जो श्री प्रागदा कोटइया जी ने अपने विचार रखे हैं उससे मैं अपने को भी संबद्ध करता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): The hon. Minister of State for Finance is here. The hon. senior Member has raised a very important issue which concerns lakhs of hand-loom weavers and I think the Government will consider the issue and come to the House with the proposal.

SHRI M. A. BABY; Thank you very much.

Need for giving approval to Indo-Singapore Trade Corridor

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, thank you for providing me this opportunity. I take this opportunity to impress upon the Government the need for giving an early approval to the Indo-Singapore Trade Corridor near Madras in the larger interests of the nation. Our hon. Chief Minister has already sent the details of the project to the Centre. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been pursuing the proposal for an Indo-Singapore Trade Corridor. The objective is to attract direct foreign investment from Singapore where because of constraints of space and other infra tincture, investors are looking for prospective investment sites. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken a number of steps for setting up this project. About 2,000 acres of land have been identified at Sholinganallur near Madras. Plans have also been drawn up for developing the roads around this site to improve access to the sites. The site had been seen by a high level Singapore delegation which visited Madras in February, 1993. Since the Singapore investors already have the choice of going to the industrial parks at Indonesia, Malaysia, etc., which are closer to Singapore, a detailed study was undertaken to examine what policy changes would be required to attract investment. Discussions at the official level were also held to explore this aspect. Based on this examination, a detailed project report was prepared and sent in October, 1993, by the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Government of India for approval by the Foreign

investment Promotion Board. Among the important changes asked for are the increase in the access to the domestic tariff area from the present 30 per cent to 50 per cent for export oriented units. Already 50 per cent access to domestic tariff area is permitted for certain areas like food processing while for electorates it is 40 per cent. The project envisages development of about 650 acres in the first phase. This is proposed to be developed by a separate company with equity holding by a Singapore company, a local Indian company and the Government of Tamil Nadu. The project cost is estimated at about Rs. 640 crores and is expected to generate annual exports of the order of Rs. 3600 crores. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi had requested for early clearance of this project in the recent meeting of the National Development Council in September, 1993.

The same request was made in the memorandum presented by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to the Prime Minister in November, 1993. Since the project is pending for approval before the Foreign Investment Promotion Board, I request the Centre to expedite the approval for the said project as it will turn out to be a boon for India.

Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Now I adjourn The House till 11.00 a.m. on Monday.

The House then adjourned at sixteen minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 13th December, 1993.