

and profit. Over and above all these, transport charge of Rs. 2/- to Rs. 4/- per bundle are borne by the societies. The primaries are thus made to pay for yarn extra over and above the market prices of similar counts of yarn. The other scheme of getting 75,000 bales of cotton with the Cotton Corporation of India converted into yarn in the cooperatives and private mills is only in its early stage. Certain mills promised to purchase 64,000 bales but have purchased only 24,000 bales so far. It is not clearly known what counts of yarn would be spun and at what prices they would be supplied to the handloom weavers.

All these facts go to prove without the slightest doubt that the primary weavers' cooperative were forced to purchase the required yarn at the available market prices during all the past seven months for providing employment to their member-weavers. There has been an abnormal increase in the prices of dyes and chemicals all through. The Union Finance Minister claimed in one of his letters addressed to me that excise duties on naphthole and vat dyes were reduced from 25 to 20 per cent from 1-4-1994. The advantage has accrued to the manufacturers and the middlemen but not to the handloom weavers. As is known to all, the production of coloured cloth is the mainstay of handlooms. Normally, there would be no increase in the prices of handloom cloth in proportion to the increase in prices of raw materials, as it is subjected to the fierce competition of the mill and powerloom products produced by them in defiance of the reservations made to handlooms. Though the Supreme Court of India upheld the Constitutional validity of the Handlooms Reservation Act and the reservations made under the provisions of the Act, the Government of India is required to take steps for enforcing reservations. The present problem is to find a market for the accumulated cloth worth Rs. 75 crores with the primary and apex handloom weavers' cooperative societies in Andhra Pradesh. There must

have been similar accumulation of handloom cloth in all other States also.

The marketing development assistance of six per cent on the production in the case of primaries and eight per cent on the turnover of apex societies is not helpful for the disposal of the cloth made out of high-priced yarn, dyes and chemicals.

There were instances when the Government granted exemption of excise duty for mill cloth, tobacco and certain other commodities when there was a slump in their business. Bharat Ratna Smt. Indira Gandhi announced 20 per cent rebate on the sale of handloom cloth accumulated with weavers' cooperatives. Last year, our beloved Prime Minister had written off loans of several tens of crores outstanding against handloom weavers in Uttar Pradesh to tide over the crisis faced by them.

The earnest appeal of handloom weavers all over the country is to increase the M.D.A. to 12 per cent on their turnovers so that the accumulated cloth may be sold to the extent of at least 50 per cent, which will be a great relief to the handloom weavers in crisis. Timely help will save the handloom weavers from unemployment and its consequences. Thank you, Madam.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING 8TH AUGUST, 1994

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): With your permission, Madam, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 8th August, 1994 will consist of:—

1. Consideration and passing of:
(a) The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1994.

(b) The Airports Authority of India Bill, 1993, as passed by Lok Sabha.

(c) The Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Power Transmission System) Bill, 1994, as passed by Lok Sabha.

2. Discussion on the Resolution seeking extension of President's Rule in the State of Jammu & Kashmir for a further period of 6 months w.e.f 3.9.1994.

3. Consideration and return of the Manipur Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1994, as passed by Lok Sabha.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one minute past one of the clock.

The House resumed after lunch at thirty-four minutes past two of the clock, The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE (Contd.)

Simplified Statement regarding Action Taken Report on the Recommendations of Joint Parliamentary Committee NN

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam, I lay on the Table a simplified Statement (in English and Hindi) regarding Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee which enquired into the irregularities in Securities and Banking Transactions including withdrawal of certain words contained in the Action Taken Report.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, can we ask supplementary questions? (Interruptions).

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): No, it can't be done because he has laid a copy of the statement on the Table. (Interruptions)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I don't follow what you are saying.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Madam, can we seek some clarifications?

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 1994-95 (August, 1994)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam, I lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 1994-95 (August, 1994).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Today is the Private Members' Business day.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, Special Mentions should be taken up.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to think about it because this will be a new precedent.

I have to inform the hon. Members that today's Resolutions are in the names of the Members who are not present here. In today's Private Members' Business, there is a Resolution moved by Shri Viren J. Shah, which is under discussion, and then the other Resolutions to be moved by Shri E. Balanandan, Shri Ramachandran Pillai, Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi, Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya and Dr. Naunihal Singh. None of them is here... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): The discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Viren J. Shah was to be continued.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But the Member, who moved the Resolution, should be here. We cannot continue the