

[Shri Jinendra Kumar Jain]

ment of capital market. We don't want to interfere." Even if you don't have the right to interfere, if you are in a position to interfere, you interfere and disturb the contest. I don't want to favour any individual or corporation, but I want to speak in terms of fairness fair play, which is the essence of our functioning, the functioning of this Government, and this nation should be based on principles of fair play. If that is sacrificed it disturbs me and through you, Madam, I want to tell this Government to stop doing this. If they want to have some other goals, let them use fair means and let the country functions as per the rules. The policy statements which have been made in this House by the hon'ble Prime Minister, by the hon'ble Finance Minister, have no sanctity if the financial institutions controlled by them just do otherwise. It should not be done and I demand from him and the Minister to assure this House that they will stop such illegal practices in future. Thank you.

Need to Rehabilitate Poor Weavers of Handloom Sector in Tamil Nadu

*SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I rise to bring to the notice of the Government the pathetic plight of handloom weavers of Tamil Nadu. The handloom sector in Tamil Nadu is in doldrums. As a result, more than 3000 weavers from Madurai district of Tamil Nadu alone have migrated to Delhi in search of livelihood. Here, they live in miseries doing odd jobs which they are not used to. Chinnalapatti in Tamil Nadu is as famous as Kancheepuram for Sarees. Chinnalapatti handloom sector is traditionally known for producing beautiful sarees and wonderful clothes with attractive designs. But today, because of the setting up of powerloom industries there and the hike in the price of yarn, the handloom sector has been rendered idle and the weavers have lost their livelihood. This pathetic situation has forced them to seek shelter in Delhi, 3000 kilometres away from their home. Here, in Delhi, they sell balloons and do household drudgeries to make both ends meet.

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

In 1985 the Government assigned the manufacture of Janata Sarees, dhobhis, angawasthrams, lungis and other such items for the handloom sector. But this policy is not at all followed these days. They are unable to compete with the powerloom sector. Therefore, the handloom sector has had to face this kind of life and death crisis. If one powerloom is set up, 8 handlooms are rendered idle. Then we can imagine the magnitude of the problem.

More than two lakhs weavers have been thrown out of employment. They are undergoing unbearable miseries. The 1985 policy decision of the Government was brought to protect their interest but, it has been stayed by the Supreme Court. This is, indeed, a very grave situation for it involve the very survival of the weaving community.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate action on this matter to save this helpless weavers. The Centre should also direct the State Government to extend necessary help to the handloom sector.

Thank you,

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I would like to associate myself with the sentiments and views expressed by my honourable friend, Shri Venkatraman. Weavers from not only Chinnalapatti in Medurai District, but also from almost all weaving centres are migrating in search of employment because they have lost their employment on account of the increasing and also unchecked competition from the powerlooms in this country. Therefore, it is essential, in all fairness, to control the powerlooms and textile mills from competing with the handloom weavers by reserving the items of cloth which have already been reserved on 11th March, 1986 to the handloom weavers.

Alleged move by the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun to shift its Forest Soil-cum-Vegetation Survey Station out of West Bengal

DR. R. K. PODDAR (West Bengal): Thank you, Madam, for giving me this op-