

STATEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD (Andhra Pradesh); Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following Statements (in English and Hindi) of the Public Accounts Committee:—

(i) 'Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of 121st Report (Sixth Lok Sabha) on Incorrect Valuation of Assets.

(ii) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of 79th Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Assessment of Foreign Technicians.

(iii) Statement showing action taken (by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of 188th Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) on All India Handicrafts Board.

(iv) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of 197th Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Direct Taxes relating to Provisional Assessments and Refunds,

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. ALLOCATION OF TIME FOR GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held on the 21st November, 1995, allotted

time for Government Legislative Business as follows:—

Business	Time Allotted
Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by the Lok Sabha :—	
(1) The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 1985.	3 hrs.
(2) The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill, 1985.	4 hrs.
(3) The Inland Waterways Authority of India Bill, 1985	2 hrs.

The Committee recommended that as decided earlier, the House should observe lunch break from 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. on all days except Fridays when the House may, as hitherto before, observe lunch break from 1-00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported crippling effect of the new Textile policy on handloom and powerloom sectors textile workers and cotton grower

SHRI N. E. BALRAM (Kerala): I call the attention of the Minister of Textiles to the reported crippling effect of the new Textile Policy on handloom and powerloom sectors, textile workers and cotton growers; and the remedial steps (taken by Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): -Sir, the Textile Policy, which was announced by the Government on June 6, 1985, takes an integrated view of the textile industry. In any discussion on its impact, one should hence take an overall view instead of a sectional view. It is too early to compute the impact of the textile policy which is being progressively implemented. However,

I proceed to place before the House the present position regarding the segments of the textile industry to which the present Motion draws attention.

The average monthly production of yarn during the past nine months has been 119 million kgs. compared to 111 million kgs. last year. The availability of yarn of all varieties has hence been easy. The spinning utilisation has also gone up this year as compared to last year. The prices of yarn have come down and in case of hank yarn the weighted average price at the end of October, 1985 was lower by about 11 per cent, as compared to the corresponding period last year. With the better availability and cheaper price of yarn, the hand looms have no problem regarding inputs. The production of handlooms during the six month period between April and September, 1985, has been higher by about 4 per cent over last year. The high production has also been accompanied by higher sales. The allocation and production of janata cloth which constitutes a small fraction of the total handloom production has been increased from 360 million metres to 420 million metres. The production of janata cloth has been allocated to States which are keen to And employment for the unemployed semi-skilled weavers. There is no compulsion or coercion to be exercised in the production of janata cloth.

The production of powerlooms in the six month period April—September this year has been 2846 million metres which shows a substantial rise over the production in the corresponding period of last year, which was 2663 million metres. There was a fall in the production of synthetic and blended cloth by the mill sector this year, as compared to last year probably on account of anticipation of price reduction envisaged in the policy. With the reduction of duties on polyester fibre, the production levels have been restored. The poly-

ester filament units faced price resistance on account of high levels of profit margins being retained by the filament makers. With the sharp reduction in price of filament by the filament makers affected on 1st November, the situation in respect of polyester filament weaving would also be rectified.

The organised industry had welcomed the textile policy. They will, however, have to become more efficient, reduce costs and improve the quality of the cloth. We do not expect all this to happen over-night. But the process of modernisation has started. This process will take care of the entire set of operations from ginning, spinning, weaving, processing to marketing stages. This will serve to ensure health of the Textile Industry and increase its productivity which is the best way to protect the interests of the workers and their employment in the long run.

The last cotton year witnessed a cotton crop of an unprecedented size of over 101 lakh bales. But, the size of the crop was matched by higher utilisation in the industry along with exports of the surplus varieties. The support prices to cotton farmers was effectively maintained. As an overall effect of the textile policy, it is expected that the total cloth production will grow and so will the consumption of cotton in spite of a growing share of synthetics. In any case, the farmer is assured of a market for his cotton. The increase in the support prices declared for the current cotton season take into account the short-fall in the medium staple cotton in the country.

The position in the Textile Industry is hence far from being crippled, and the developments so far indicate that we are progressing towards achievement of the objectives of the Textile Policy. The production has risen, the price of cloth is cheaper, and the quality better. It is necessary that all concerned in the Textile

[Shri Khurshid Alam Khan] Industry should concentrate upon the objective of meeting the growing requirements of the citizen and that of exports in a better manner by reducing cost and improving quality. The accent has to be on increasing the productivity and not merely on seeking higher wages or higher unit price. In the field of agriculture, productivity has increased, leading to a higher realisation per acre. So have the productivity of the various segments of the Industry shown increases. Profit margins have been deduced. But this should not lead to any feeling that the industry has been crippled. The new work culture of quality and productivity has to be brought in. We have to realise that if we want to raise the levels of employment, we have to work for higher productivity, even if, in the short run, looking at one unit at a time, it may appear as though we are reducing jobs. Over manning and Under-Utilisation' creates some jobs in the short run. But, it undermines the total economic strength of the country and ultimately 'erodes (the job market as well.

The textile policy places the needs of the citizen and the interests of the country at the centre of its attention. So far, the results have indicated that we are moving in the right direction.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

SHRI N. E. BALRAM: Madam Deputy Chairman, I am sorry to say that except one sentence I am totally in disagreement with the statement made by the hon. Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is that sentence?

SHRI N. E. BALRAM: I am going to read that sentence. The sentence is; "The organised industry had welcomed the textile policy." This is at page 2, para 4. That is the correct statement only and we are very happy about the present policy announced by the Parliament.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV (Bihar): Does it include handlooms also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You keep it for yourself also. Do not allow the cat to be out of the bag.

SHRI N. E. BALRAM: In the last session also we had a discussion on textile policy in a lengthy way. We had made certain suggestions. We had expressed our opinions and made certain criticisms. Of course all of us do not agree with this new textile policy—that opinion we have expressed in the last meeting also. While going through the statement I find that the hon. Minister has mentioned about some increase in the production. Of course, there will be some increase in the production, but when we look at the picture as a whole, I have all the doubts about where we are going.

First of all, I would like to say about the handloom area itself. Later on, I will come to the question of cotton growers. I have only these two points to make. The hon. Minister may be knowing that many of the textile mills in Tamil Nadu and Kanpur are being closed and a large number of workers are getting unemployed. Many of them are thinking to modernise the factory and in the name of modernisation they have also started retrenching workers. I do not want to deal with that question because the hon. Minister is already aware of the situation. I would only come to area of handloom. In the northern part of Kerala and in some parts of Tamil Nadu I can very well tell the hon. Minister that the production has come to a total standstill. Why is it so, The Minister in his statement has already said, when he was talking about handlooms, that with the better availability and cheaper prices of yarn the handlooms have no problem regarding inputs. Actually, this is the real problem that the handlooms are facing today. I do not know Wherefrom he got this report.

This is this real problem that the handlooms are facing everywhere in India. This is because the allocation of the janata cloth is entirely into the hands of the handloom sector. What is the use of this unless they get cheaper yarn? And what is the price of the yarn that they are now purchasing? Take the example of handloom sector in Cannanore, Coimbatore and other areas. I have been able to visit those areas. A large number of the factories have been closed because of the high prices of the yarn. High prices of yarn are very much disturbing the entire sphere of handloom. Secondly, take the prices of chemicals. What do you say about the chemicals? They do need the chemicals. The price of chemicals has gone very high. The handloom sector is not in a position to get cheaper yarn and chemicals and the production in the handloom industry become stagnated in many areas. A large number of workers are getting unemployed. This is the real position in the handloom sphere in spite of the tall claim made by the Government that the entire sphere of Janata cloth has been allotted to it. They are not able to produce that; and if they produce it, the cost will be higher and the subsidy given by the Government will not be able to neutralise the price rise, so, that is the position.

So with regard to handloom sector, the new Textile Policy is not at all beneficial. That is, according to the present experience I am talking; I do not know what will happen after six months or one year. According to me, the industry will get ruined if the conditions are like this and if the Government does not intervene and do something to help the handloom industry. If they are able to give yarn at the ex-mill rate—I am repeating it, if they are in a position to supply yarn to the handloom sector at ex-mill price, I think they can somehow manage. But they are not getting it at that rate. What do you mean by saying they will get cheaper yarn? It is not effective; that is

riot coming into practice. That is one point.

The second point is with regard to cotton growers. Do you know the real condition of cotton growers? Their position is very bad. I hope some friends from Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra will speak about that. Very recently I came to know that cotton growers are not able to sell their cotton in the market. They are only getting 50 per cent of the price, compared to last year. This is the real position. They are not able to sell it in the market. They are accumulating it. Some of them cannot hold the cotton which they have produced. They do not have the capacity to hold. So, they sell it in the market at a cheaper rate. That is what is actually happening. With regard to small cotton growers, throughout India, according to my information, prices have gone down. About 55 per cent they have gone down. And you know there were recently reports in the papers that the floor prices have been fixed by Government and the Cotton Corporation of India is going to purchase cotton. Nothing so far has happened. So the plight of the cotton growers is growing in spite of the assurances given by the hon. Minister in the last Session here that the interests of cotton growers will be taken care of by the Government. Nothing has been done in this sphere so far. In addition, I understand that Government of India has already imported about 75,000 tonnes of cotton from Pakistan. When there are about 10 lakh tonnes of cotton in stock with the Cotton Corporation of India and some marketing cooperating societies in Maharashtra and Punjab, where was the need for purchasing 75,000 tonnes of cotton from Pakistan? I do not know what is the reason. Recently it was stated that we are getting long staple cotton from them. But we are also producing that variety. We have got stocks of that. So why do we get it from them?

Anyway, the present policy with regard to these two sectors—the

[Shri N. E. Balram] handloom sector and the cotton growers' sector—is not at all helpful. The conditions are deteriorating every day, according to my information. Unless the Government "takes into serious consideration the criticism made and brings some amendments to their policy, I think these two spheres' condition will get deteriorated every day.

With regard to the powerloom sector, I am told the entire Bhiwandi area is being closed, in spite of all tall talk. The news item appeared day before yesterday that they are moving away. In the last one and a half months the situation was very bad in that area. But there is not much improvement for all other areas also. Of course, as I said in the very beginning, the organised sector where there are big people who can afford—that area is slowly moving up and their production is increasing very much. With regard to the other areas, this policy is becoming every day detrimental to the interests of the workers in the handloom sector and growers of cotton in this country. In this way I do not agree with the statement made by the Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Gopalsamy. We are discussing a Calling Attention and not having a Short Duration Discussion. So please ask questions.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Yes^ I will be very brief.

Madam Deputy Chairman, the new textile policy has given a mortal blow as far as the cotton growers and the handloom weavers are concerned, because of its irrational approach. In the statement made by the hon. Minister, he referred that "the support price to cotton farmers was effectively maintained." This is nothing but utter falsehood because the cotton growers in my State of Tamil Nadu and the adjoining States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharash-

tra are very much affected. Their economic backbone has been crushed. Lakhs and lakhs of cotton bales are lying idle. They are not getting any remunerative prices, they are not getting any support prices, whereas the Minister says that the support price is properly being maintained. Unless you take steps to enhance the export of cotton, the cotton growers' problems cannot be solved. The cotton growers cannot switch over to some other form of cultivation, and that is the main problem because the black soil areas are suited only for the cultivation and the farmers cannot switch over to some other form of cultivation. So the farmers, particularly the cotton growers, expect profit when they grow cotton but now unable to sell their cotton and unable to clear off their loan dues, the interest on their loans is growing and their debts are growing and the cotton growers are suffering. There is a saying in Tamil Nadu that the farmers are born in debt, live in debt and die in debt. So, as far as the cotton growers' problem is concerned, unless you revise your policy, unless you export more cotton and unless you really maintain support prices, remunerative prices, their problem cannot be solved.

Your Cotton Corporation is not purchasing cotton from the cotton growers. The Minister should have looked into it. You are not purchasing cotton from the cotton growers and the Cotton Corporation never goes near the villages. So, this is a serious problem. I hope the Minister, instead of sticking to his ground that there is no problem for the cotton growers, would reconsider the policy and take effective steps to protect the interests of the cotton growers.

As far as the handlooms are concerned, the new textile policy has severely affected them. The price structure of the janata cloth is such that the price of janata cloth cannot go beyond Rs. 20 because then it will not be janata cloth, and for each nier^ the weaver gets only Rs. 3 to 4. Unless you ensure continuous, regular

supply of yarn at controlled prices through-out the year, the handloom weavers will be badly affected. Has the Government ever bothered to fix the prices of yarn whereas they are fixing the prices of essential commodities? Yarn is the life-blood of 38 lakh handlooms in the country, providing employment to about 15 million people. Behind every handloom there are five persons. Five persons are being fed. The entire organised textile industry could provide employment to hardly 1.1 million persons whereas the handloom industry provides direct employment to over 15 million people. So, this is a human problem. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps they will take to protect the interests of the handloom weavers, particularly in our State. The Association has submitted a memorandum. Unless you assure regular supply of yarn at a fixed price, they cannot compete with powerlooms. If they increase the price of the cloth, that means that they cannot go near the powerlooms. Previously, when they were engaged in the silk industry, they were earning Rs. 400 Rs. 500 a month. Now they are getting only Rs. 200. They are going to be deprived of their livelihood. Lakhs and lakhs of handloom weavers are suffering losses. Therefore, may I request the hon. Minister to take effective steps to protect the interests of the handloom weavers as well as the cotton-growers.

Because Madam Deputy Chairman has told that I should be brief, I cannot go beyond that regarding the powerloom sector. My other colleagues will deal with it.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal):
Madam, the new textile policy. ..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Follow Mr Gopalsamy. Be brief so that we can finish before the lunch hour.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Do you want me to follow him?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Ask questions.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: AU right. Madam, this new textile policy was discussed earlier in this House. At that time, Members of Parliament from various parties raised notes of caution against the repercussions of this policy. Now, I find that instead of paying heed to the caution that was raised in the House, our Minister has come out very delightfully with a statement which is in full praise of the new textile policy. And I feel, he is totally in dark or he has been kept in dark by his Department about what is happening in the powerloom and the handloom sectors of this industry.

Madam, while initiating the discussion my colleague, Mr. Balram, said that he agreed with one line in the statement that the organised industry is very much satisfied with this new textile policy. Now, let us see what the repercussions are on the unorganised sector of the industry. I am specially referring to the powerlooms and the handloom in Maharashtra where there are a number of powerlooms. A convention was organised in Maharashtra of the owners of the powerloom industry. An *ad hoc* committee was formed for that purpose. Madam, I read from a report in the "Financial Express" dated 28-7-85. It says:

"The participants (of the convention) stressed the magnitude of the damage that would be caused to growth of the highly labour intensive powerloom sector and urged the State Government to plead this case with the Centre strongly so as to prevent the likely damage to the industry." These are the reactions of the owners of the powerloom industry. Madam, one Minister* of the Maharashtra State Government also attended the convention. I read:

"Addressing the convention, the State Minister of Industry, Mr. Sudhakar Naik, said, the State Government was reviewing the new

[Shri Sukomal Sen] textile policy and its repercussions on all the three sectors, handloom, powerloom and organised composite mills—at the secretary level."

It means that the Maharashtra Government is also feeling concerned at the repercussions that the new textile policy is having mainly on the powerloom sector.

Madam, there is another report. After the announcement of the new textile policy, I read it in some newspaper that in Bhiwandi itself 42,000 powerlooms have been closed down, and throughout the country 2 lakh powerlooms have been closed down, after the announcement of the new textile policy. What is the reason? The reason is that this industry was enjoying fiscal relief so long. Now, the relief has been withdrawn. They had been asked to compete with the giant mills how can, these powerlooms, which are decentralised industry compete with the organised industry, that is, the giant mills. As a result of this policy one by one powerloom industry is being closed down. Madam, not only this the powerloom sector produces about 40 per cent of the total cloth production of our country, while the mill sector produces only about 30 per cent of the total product. The handloom sector produces 30 per cent rest of the product. Now this powerloom sector which produces the bulk of the total cloth production of our country has been hard hit by the new textile policy. During these three months it has proved beyond doubt that the new textile policy is only to serve the vested interests, that is the giant mill owners but not the interest of the handloom industry or powerloom industry or the consumers.

Madam, according to the Government report this handloom industry employs about 75 lakhs of workers. Then, the powerloom industry

employs about 33 lakhs of workers. This mill sector employs about 13 lakhs of workers. What is the reaction of this handloom industry? I quote an article appeared in the "Times of India" dated 2-8-1985;

"The new textile policy, which expects handlooms to depend on their own muscle power to chase away the predator-mills and powerlooms" will render millions jobless in the countryside, according to Mr. L. C. Jain, a textile expert".

Mr. Jain is a technical expert who represents the interest of the handloom industry.

Now both powerloom industry as well as handloom industry are voicing their concern against the new textile policy. Yet our Minister is very much delighted to defend this new textile policy which is going to ruin the textile industry.

Not only that it is connected with another question also. The Government has allowed to import textile machinery also from foreign countries. Madam, if we look into the textile machinery industry in our country we will find that this industry is also on the verge of ruin, because these millowners have been given additional facilities liberalised facilities, and soft loans to import foreign machines for producing clothes. Then, who will go in for indigenous machines? The firms which are producing indigenous machines are also on the verge of ruin because of the Government policy. So not only the powerloom sector, the handloom sector, but the machines manufacturing sector is also suffering. What happens to the worker? In the new textile policy there has been a mention of some relief that is rehabilitation scheme for the workers because of modernisation. Although the Government has referred to rehabilitation scheme, nobody knows what it is. Due to modernisation the workers will be

thrown out of the mills. Who will provide them employment? There is no word about it. The mill owners can hire and fire. That is the motto of the new textile policy. Many powerloom industries are getting closed down. The handloom industry is now on a tottering stage. It will simply collapse due to this new textile policy. Madam, there is over-reliance on synthetic fibre—the Government call it as a multiple fibre policy—what does it mean? whether they would rely less and less on cotton?

Madam, I would like to draw your attention to a historical fact. Our cotton industry developed in India during the swadeshi movement when our national leaders called our people to use swadeshi cloth against the foreign clothes. That is why in Bombay or elsewhere this cotton industry grew fighting against this offensive from Lancashire and other foreign based textile industries. Now, after this new textile policy, reliance is made on import of foreign made fibres. If we import more and more foreign made fibre and rely on it, what will happen to the cotton growers? They will get demoralised because the demand of cotton will be reduced day-by-day because of our over-reliance on polyester fibre and other synthetic yarns.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sukomal Sen, please conclude.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Madam, this policy of reliance on imported fibres is going to ruin the cotton growers, textile workers, handloom owners, powerloom owners and the entire working class engaged in this industry. So, I cannot say, this policy is in the interest of the nation. This new textile policy is out and out an anti-national policy designed to ruin the cotton growers, is going to ruin the workers who are engaged in the mills powerloom and the handloom industries* Now, Madam, I would like to put some questions: Whether in view of the experience of

the last few months, without hiding the facts. Government should come out with the reality, whether the Government is going to withdraw this new textile policy? Whether they are going to nationalise the entire textile industry. One after another, textile mills are being closed. Even the NTC is not in a position to manage the mills. Under the NTC, mills are going sick. So in this situation when the Government is going to nationalise the entire textile industry whether they are going to ensure remunerative prices to the growers of cotton and whether they are going to ensure job security to the workers engaged in the mill sector, handloom sector and the powerloom sector.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : महोदया, इस देश में जो टेक्सटाइल पालिसी इंडस्ट्री है उसमें सबसे अधिक मजदूर हैंडलूम में काम करते हैं तब कर 75 लाख के करीब मजदूर इसमें काम करते हैं। यह पहला वक्त है कि टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री के सभी पहलुओं को मिल सेक्टर, पावरलूम सेक्टर, हैंडलूम सेक्टर की समस्याओं को मद्देनजर रख कर सरकार ने एक नई टेक्सटाइल पालिसी निर्धारित की। अभी बहुत ही कम दिन हुए हैं और अभी उसकी प्रक्रिया बहुत बाकी है जो कि नहीं लागू हो सकी है जिसकी वजह से हो सकता है थोड़ी बहुत कठिनाई हो। लेकिन जो पालिसी है, चाहे वह मिल सेक्टर की हो, पावरलूम सेक्टर की हो, हैंडलूम सेक्टर की हो वह बड़ी ही उत्तम है, अच्छी है। आप जानती हैं कि जितना टारगेट देश में इसका पूरा करने का पावरलूम सेक्टर ने तो पूरा किया लेकिन हैंडलूम और मिल सेक्टर कभी पूरा नहीं कर सका। बहुत ही मिलें सिक होती जा रही थी और मजदूर बेकार हो रहे थे और हमारे भाई जो उधर बैठे हुए हैं, रात-दिन कहते थे कि सरकार सत्क मिलों को अपने हाथ में ले ले, कोई निश्चित रूप से पालिसी निर्धारित करे ताकि ये मिलें ठीक से चल सकें। टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री एक माने में हमारी बहुत अच्छी थी आज वह मर रही है। इस पर कुछ करना चाहिए। सरकार ने कदम उठाया

[श्री रामानन्द यादव]

है। हमारे भाई जो उधर बैठे हुए हैं वह मजदूरों की बात तो करते हैं लेकिन असल बात करते हैं मिल सेक्टर के लोगों की। पावरलूम सेक्टर में धीरे-धीरे मिल सेक्टर के लोग आ कर प्रवेश कर रहे थे और इस पावर सेक्टर में ये एक्सप्लॉएट कर रहे थे और टेक्स इंबेड कर रहे थे। आज उन के ऊपर टेक्स लगने लगा तो टेक्स बचाने के लिए वह तरह-तरह से अखबारों में या और दूसरे तरीकों से कहते हैं कि यह पालिसी गलत है। टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री पर, मिल सेक्टर पर और पावरलूम सेक्टर पर सरकार ने कुछ प्रतिबन्ध लगाया। इसे बीच कपड़े के दाम काफी बढ़े हैं, लेकिन पर कैप्टा कजम्शन घट रहा था और काटन की प्राइस किसानों को अच्छी नहीं मिल रही थी। ऐसा हालत में सरकार ने यह उचित कदम उठाया है, यह सगुहतीय कदम है। मैं खास करके हैण्डलूम सेक्टर की बात करना चाहता हूँ। हैण्डलूम सेक्टर को सरकार ने रिएक्स्ट्रक्चर करने की बात सोची है। यह बहुत अच्छा काम है। हैण्डलूम सेक्टर को नया जीवन दिया गया है। पहले कंट्रोल का कपड़ा मिल सेक्टर द्वारा बनाया जाता था और हैण्डलूम सेक्टर मर रहा था। आज उसको काम देकर बहुत उचित कदम उठाया गया है। पावर सेक्टर आज इसलिये बंद हो रहा है कि वे टेक्स को इंबेड कर रहे हैं। सरकार को टेक्स देना नहीं चाहते हैं। सरकार ने जो पालिसी बनाई है उसमें हैण्डलूम सेक्टर के वीवर्स आर्गनाइजेशन्स को स्वीकार किया गया। यह एक बहुत अच्छी बात है। सरकार का ध्यान अब हैण्डलूम सेक्टर की तरफ गया है। लेकिन इसको कंपार्टीटिव बनाने के लिए और उसका प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाने के लिए, उसके प्रोडक्शन को मॉडरेट बनाने के लिए, उसमें नई टेक्नोलोजी इंट्रोड्यूस करने के लिए और मजदूरों के लिए वर्कशॉप स्थापित करने के लिए प्रयास करने की जरूरत है। इस बात से कोई इंकार नहीं कर सकता है कि सरकार की नई टेक्सटाइल पालिसी के कारण हैण्डलूम सेक्टर में काम करने वाले मजदूरों को यान मिलने लगा है। पहले

यह स्थिति थी कि मजदूरों को यान नहीं मिलता था। आज स्टेट्स में जो हैण्डलूम कारपोरेशन्स हैं उनके माध्यम से यह निश्चित है कि मजदूरों को यान मिलेगा। उनको इधर-उधर भटकने की जरूरत नहीं है। काटन कारपोरेशन को भी काम मिला है। पहले वे स्पोर्ट प्राइस देते थे। सभी क्षेत्रों में सुधार हुआ है। यह सब सरकार की नई टेक्सटाइल पालिसी के कारण हुआ है। अब स्थिति यह है कि मजदूरों को कपड़ा बनाने से पहले भी लोन मिलेगा और कपड़ा बनाने के बाद भी लोन मिलेगा। इसका कारण यह है कि पहले तो उसको कपड़ा बनाने के लिए मिलेगा और बाद में उस कपड़े को बेचने के लिए भी लोन मिलेगा ताकि वह ठीक भाव पर अपने कपड़े को बेच सके। सरकार हैण्डलूम सेक्टर में नई टेक्नोलोजी लाने की भी कोशिश कर रही है।

श्री जगबन्धी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार में तो मजदूर मर रहे हैं।

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मैं बिहार की ही बात कर रहा हूँ, रांची की बात कर रहा हूँ। सिवाल हैण्डलूम का सबसे बड़ा प्रोडक्शन का सेंटर है। जहाँ पर एक लाख रुपयों का प्रोडक्शन एक गांव में होता है। मैं वहीं का रहने वाला हूँ..... (अवधान)। आप बोलने ही नहीं दे रहे हैं।

श्री जगबन्धी प्रसाद यादव : हम तो आपको बोलने के लिए कह रहे हैं।

उपसभापति : आप सिर्फ सवाल पूछिये, मेरी बात पर अमल कीजिए।

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सातवीं योजना तक हमारे यहाँ हैण्डलूम सेक्टर में वन मिलियन मजदूर हो जाएगा। उनकी हैल्थ के लिए, उनके हाउसिंग के लिए और उनके बच्चों की शिक्षा-दीक्षा के लिए आपको इंतजाम करना होगा। उनकी ट्रेनिंग के लिये सारे प्रबंध इसमें किये गये हैं। लेकिन हमको ऐसा लगता है कि हमारे

जो दोस्त हैं वे समझते हैं कि कुछ नहीं हुआ है। एक बात और, हैंडलूम में काम करने वाले जो मजदूर हैं उनके प्रोविडेंट फण्ड का इंतजाम होने को है। यही नहीं मैडम, जो डिजाइन हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री में होने चाहिए वे पहले उपलब्ध नहीं थे लेकिन अब वेरियस टाइप आफ डिजाइन जो बाहर के मुल्कों में पसंद किये जा सकें, जिनको बाहर के मुल्कों में भेज सके, उनको इन्ट्रोड्यूस करने के लिये सरकार की तरफ से प्रबंध किये जा रहे हैं। मैडम, मैं अपने मित्र को यह भी बता देना चाहता हूँ कि . . .

उपसभापति : कौन हैं आपके मित्र ?

श्री रामानन्द यादव : हमारे मित्र उधर हैं। . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

यह जो कह रहे हैं कि जो लेबर है वह डिसप्लेस है। लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि लेबर डिसप्लेस नहीं है। जो इंडस्ट्री सिक हो जाती है आज खुद सरकार उस इंडस्ट्री को अपने हाथ में ले लेती है। और उस सिक इंडस्ट्री को लेकर उन मजदूरों को रखे रहते हैं और जो वहां के वर्कर्स हैं उनको इम्प्लायमेंट देने का एश्योरस देते हैं और सरकार इसको करती है। ऐसी बात नहीं है कि उनको छोड़ दिया गया है। महोदया, मैं सरकार से दो-तीन बातें जानना चाहता हूँ ?

पहला, हैंडलूम सेक्टर में प्रोडक्शन और क्वालिटी में क्या कुछ परिवर्तन हुआ है ? दूसरा, अभी हैंडलूम सेक्टर के संबंध में इस बिल को पारित हुए बहुत कम समय हुआ है इसलिये न्यू टेक्सटाइल पालिसी के इम्प्लीमेंटेशन में सरकार को पूरा समय नहीं मिला है और इतने कम समय में यह इम्प्लीमेंट हो जायेगा इसकी हम आशा भी नहीं करते हैं। लेकिन थोड़ी बहुत मात्रा में जो प्रयास किया गया है उसके आधार पर मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार द्वारा हैंडलूम सेक्टर के प्रोडक्शन के लिये जो टारगेट फिक्स किया गया है वह अभीव हुआ या नहीं ? क्या इसके कारण हैंडलूम के कपड़े सस्ते हुए हैं या

नहीं ? तीसरा, क्या हैंडलूम सेक्टर में जो माल प्रोड्यूस होता है, जो वीवर पैदा करते हैं उनकी माल की बिक्री का प्रबन्ध सरकार ने किया है या नहीं ? अगर किया है तो क्या किया है ? सरकार टेक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री में सिकनेस रोकने के लिये कौन से कदम उठाने जा रही है। क्योंकि न्यू टेक्सटाइल पालिसी में सरटेन मेजर्स एडाप्ट किये गये थे, सिकनेस रोकने के लिये और उसमें मिल-मालिकों के ऊपर सरटेन रेस्ट्रिक्शंस लगा रखे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उनका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन ठीक से हो रहा है या नहीं ? मैं सरकार से यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि काटन कारपोरेशन का जो इसमें रोल होना चाहिए वह अपना उचित पार्ट अदा कर रहा है और क्या हैंडलूम सेक्टर को यार्न सप्लाई में कोई मुस बत का सामना करना पड़ता है ? आपकी वेरियस कौन-कौन सी एजेंसीज हैं जिनके माध्यम से वीवर्स और हैंडलूम सेक्टर में काम करने वाले लोगों को यार्न मिलता है ?

उपसभापति : बाकी आपके दूसरे यादव जी पूछ लेंगे।

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि हैंडलूम सेक्टर में जो काम करने वाले लोग हैं उनको पास्ट में प्री लोन अभी तक आपने कितना दिया है और किस एजेंसी के माध्यम से आपने उनको दिया है ? हैंडलूम सेक्टर में न्यू टेक्नालाजी इन्ट्रोड्यूस करने की बात आप न्यू टेक्सटाइल पालिसी में लाये हैं तो न्यू टेक्नालाजी के लिये उसके डिजाइन, उसके प्रोसेसिंग और प्रोडक्शन पर रिसर्च करने के लिये आपने क्या कोई नई एजेंसी बनाई है ? अगर बनाई है, तो वह एजेंसी क्या है ?

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं चाहूंगा कि हमारे मंत्री जी इसका जवाब दें।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :
उपसभापति महोदया, . . . (व्यवधान)

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM
(Tamil Nadu): Madam, it is my turn now, (Interruptions).

उपसभापति : यादव जी, आप थोड़ा गैप के बाद बोलेंगे तो अच्छा रहेगा (व्यवधान)

श्री रामानन्द यादव : जैसे लिस्ट में नाम दिया है वैसे बुलाइये । (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : आप कृपा कर के हाउस चलाने की कोशिश न करें । (व्यवधान) या तो आप इधर किसी पर आ जाइये (व्यवधान)
Please do not interfere in this.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Madam, it is my turn to speak (Interruptions).

उपसभापति : आपका नाम लिस्ट में नहीं है इसलिए आप बाद में बोलेंगे । मोहनरंगम जी पहले बोलेंगे ।
First, we would call according to the list and then the others would be called. (Interruptions).

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: My name is there and I have to speak now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am speaking for you only, Mr. Mohanarangam. You need not get perturbed. Everybody will get a chance. Yes, Mr. Mohanarangam.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Madam Deputy Chairman, I was very carefully going through the statement of our Minister. That has been written very carefully and efficiently by our Minister with the help of experienced IAS officers.

Madam, he has said in his Statement-I am referring to page 2 of the statement—that they "do not expect all this to happen overnight" Of course it may be two months or three months for him. But, we have been asking for the last thirty or thirty-five years after our Independence. I am not really satisfied with the performance of this sector especially after the introduction of the new textile policy. This handloom industry we used to consider as No. 2 in the country after agri-

culture. Nearly 75 lakhs of people are completely dependent on this industry in the whole country and as far as my state is concerned, more than 25 lakhs of people are completely dependent on this industry. Unless and until the Government comes forward to rectify certain defects or to introduce certain remedial measures, all the 25 lakhs of people in my state and the 75 lakhs of people in the whole country would suffer very much and they will not find alternative employment. I would, therefore, like to ask the Minister what exactly the Government has done in order to rectify or remedy the defects in the handloom industry. We have talked so much about these handloom weavers for the past so many years, not only on the floor of this Parliament, but also outside. But I would like to know what exactly you did for them. This I am not in a position to understand. My leader, the late-lamented Anna, Madam Deputy Chairman, when he was the Chief Minister of my state, helped in selling more than ten lakhs of rupees worth of handloom goods in 1968 by himself selling them in the streets one day. This was done by him when he was the Chief Minister. So, what I say is that the Government should come forward to help these people and instructions should go from the Minister to the various Departments to the effect that they should purchase handloom goods for their staff. I do not know what exactly the steps are which have been taken by our Government Departments to purchase goods from the handloom weavers. Only the Defence Department has come forward to purchase these handloom goods. But the other Departments do at all care to buy handloom goods.

Madam, we are talking about the wages of labour and welfare of labour. What about in wages of the handloom weavers? They are in the hands of their employers and they are not in a position to get enough wages. They have to work continuously throughout the year. But there is no Provident Fund for them and there is no holiday also for them. In the other House,

Madam, a Member suggested introduction of Provident Fund for the handloom weavers and even a friend of mine talked about it here. Have you ever thought of this problem? Have you ever thought of introducing the Provident Fund Scheme for these 75 lakhs of people who are scattered throughout the length and breadth of this country? Not only that. Madam, some ten years before, a system was introduced after some of the MPs spoke about the housing problem of these workers. A housing scheme was introduced for the textile labourers. Have you ever thought about sanctioning more money for the housing schemes for the textile labourers? Madam, it was introduced. But, suddenly, it was stopped. How many houses have you constructed for these 75 lakhs of handloom weavers in the country and how many houses have you constructed for the 25 lakhs of weavers in my State? When I made enquiries about this from the employees, I was told that not even a single house has been constructed in my part of the country for the handloom weavers. But your officials give statistics saying that you have constructed more than ten lakhs of houses.

Madam, there is another thing. They have reduced the rebate period from sixty days to thirty days. This was not acceptable. Then they raised it from thirty days to forty-five days. Earlier, it was sixty days. Madam, it is not there for giving any preference to the handloom people. They are not in a position to fight the millionaires. What about Central subsidy? The Central Government is of course giving 50 per cent of the total subsidy. In some cases, it has come to my notice that even 50 per cent of the Central subsidy is going only after the period is over. You have said that you have given more facilities for increased production and for employment opportunities and all these things. I do understand. Sir. You have given so many facilities for the handloom weavers, but only in respect of floods which are cheaper; high

profit earning goods are handed over to the textile industry, and even if they sell just one-tenth of the total things sold by the handloom weavers, they will be earning ten times more profit. These are the things we have to consider.

Is there any consolidated fund earmarked for the development of the handloom industry? We do not have any consolidated fund earmarked only for that particular purpose, even though 75 lakhs of people are depending upon handlooms, 30 lakhs on powerlooms and 13 lakhs completely dependent upon textiles.

You have said that sophisticated machines have to be imported for development and increased production. I do agree. Sophisticated machines have to be imported. But will it not create some unemployment problem? In the beginning I said that they have very cleverly drafted this. On the fourth page they have stated:

"We have to realise that if we want to raise the levels of employment, we have to work for higher productivity even if in the short run, looking at one unit at a time, it may appear as though we are reducing jobs."

What do you mean by 'short-run', Sir? Short run in the life of an individual is only 2 weeks or 3 weeks. Short run in the life of a nation may be 10 years or 15 years. What do you mean? Will you not create unemployment problem if you just import sophisticated machinery from foreign countries? You have accepted that definitely at one time for a short run there will be some unemployment problem. What are you going to do for the persons who will be unemployed? Are you going to give any compensation? Are you going to give re-employment to persons who are retrenched because of the introduction of this sophisticated machinery? All these things we have to consider. I have asked you about rebate. I have asked you about this.

[Shri R. Mohanaragam] The main question is, just, as we give subsidy for so many industries, just as we give preference for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, just as we give preference for the weaker sections of society, just as we give preference for weaker State like my own State, let us give preference for the handloom industry. We have not given that much consideration as we have given to textile mills. We have to give consideration only for the development of handloom weavers who are nearly 75 lakhs of people. In the statistics you have taken 17 lakhs only, but if you take into account those engaged in it and other persons in casual labour, the total will come to more than one crore who are completely dependent upon the handloom Industry, for whom, I hope, as our hon. Minister has a soft corner for these down-trodden, weaker sections—he will solve these problems. With these words, I conclude my speech.

उपसभापति : श्री जे० पो० यादव ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : एक बज गया है ।

उपसभापति : अभी 2 मिनट हैं ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : उपसभापति महोदय, जिस समय राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र नीति की राज्य सभा में चर्चा हुई मैंने उस समय भी मंत्री महोदय से आग्रह किया था कि इस राष्ट्रीय नीति से हथकरघा उद्योग और पावरलूम सेक्टर में बड़ ही विनाश की स्थिति उत्पन्न होगी मैं समझता हूँ कि जिस प्रकार की स्थिति उन लोगों की हुई उससे उस वस्त्र नीति के प्रवक्ता का भी इस सदन से नामोनिशान मिट गया । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान कुछ वस्त्र मुद्दों पर आकर्षित करना चाहूँगा ।

सबसे पहला मुद्दा है कपास उत्पादकों की स्थिति । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कपास उत्पादकों को किस प्रतिशत में अनुदान देने की व्यवस्था की गयी है,

एक, उनके उत्पाद, कपास को खरीदने की क्या व्यवस्था की गयी है । उन कपास के उत्पादकों के लिए बयरहाउस, भंडारण की कितनी क्षमता की व्यवस्था की गयी है ? क्या सरकार के उचित खरीदी के बाजार में नहीं जाने के कारण उनको बनियों के हाथ में, बनिये के मूल्यों पर बेचने के लिए बाध्य होता पड़ता है ? जो कपास किसान बाजार ले जाता 1.00 P.M. है उसे बाजार से लौटाकर लाना कठिन होता है और बनिया जो दाम देता है उसे लेना पड़ता है ।

इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि किसानों के लिए जो शंकाएँ पहले प्रकट की गई थीं, क्या वह शंकाएँ अभी भी कायम हैं ?

दूसरी चीज, जो किसान का कपास एक्सपोर्ट हो सकता है, उस पर टैक्स है क्या ? उसे एक्सपोर्ट करने की स्थिति में जो सुविधा होनी चाहिए, वह नहीं है क्या ; और

तीसरी बात इसमें यह भी है कि हम आज भी अनावश्यक रूई और कपास का इम्पोर्ट क्यों कर रहे हैं ? मुझे सुनने में आया है कि अभी भी हमने इसे इम्पोर्ट करने के लिए पाकिस्तान से या अन्य देशों से कुछ न कुछ किया है ।

उपसभापति : यादव जी आप लंच के बाद बोलेंगे, शाम को बोलेंगे या अभी कनक्लूड कर देंगे ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : जैसे आप कहें ।

उपसभापति : लंच के बाद ।

The House stands adjourned till 2.30 P.M. for lunch.

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

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-two minutes past two of the