

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I always try.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: You try to restrain but you fail in their case and succeed in our case. That is all that I am submitting.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You don't know how many times I refused them. You can see the record.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Maybe so far as they are concerned, you have rejected 50 per cent of the cases and allowed 50 per cent but in our case you are rejecting even a reference.

### RE. ATTACKS ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): Sir, my point is one on which I hope I will have the support of the whole House. This is about attacks on Members of Parliament, especially about an attack on a Congress (I) Member, Shri Shanti Tyagi. He was shot at and since the last two or three months the assailant has not been traced. About 200 Congress (I) people sat in demonstration in front of the District Magistrate about four or five days back but the District Magistrate did not have the courtesy to come and meet the demonstrators. I am very much surprised that the State Government is not taking the issue seriously. This being an attack on the life of a Member of Parliament, steps must be taken immediately to trace the people behind it, the anti-social people behind it. I would expect you to direct the Government to make a statement on this matter.

SHRI S. W. DHABE (Maharashtra): The ruling party is not making demand for a statement.

### REFERENCE TO THE PLIGHT OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS IN THE COUNTRY

MISS JAYALALITHA (Tamil Nadu): Through you, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government of India, Ministry of Commer-

ce, Department of Textiles, to a matter of urgent public importance, concerning the plight of millions of handloom weavers all over the country.

The Government of India statistics reveal that crores of people depend on the 30.5 lakh handlooms in India for their livelihood. Handloom weavers in India at present suffer for want of continuous jobs and regular income, and they are unable to extricate themselves from the clutches of poverty.

A situation of accumulation of handloom stocks has resulted, on account of certain imbalances in the textile policy of the Government of India.

One of the main reasons for heavy stagnation of handloom goods is that the powerlooms flouting the Government laws, produce goods on a large scale and sell them in the market at a cheaper rate. The powerloom goods are labelled as handloom goods and sold both in the domestic and foreign markets. Powerloom goods are exported under the label of handloom goods.

To protect the handloom industry and to encourage millions of workers engaged in this profession as early as 1953, Rajaji, the then Prime Minister of the Madras Presidency moved a resolution which was unanimously adopted in the State Assembly. The resolution urged the Central Government to reserve certain specific varieties of cloth like sarees and bordered dhoties exclusively for the handloom industry. This went unheeded by the Centre. Again, in 1968, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Anna reiterated the same demand by adopting a similar resolution. This again was unheeded by the Centre. Again, when Dr. M.G.R. became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, he reiterated the same demand before the then Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai who also turned a deaf ear to this request. In 1980, Dr. M.G.R. impressed upon the Prime

Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi the need to reserve certain items exclusively for the handloom industry.

During the last Budget session, the Union Industry Minister had announced that a suitable legislation reserving certain items to be produced exclusively by the handloom sector would be brought on the Statute Book shortly. However, despite the Union Minister's announcement, such a legislation is yet to be enacted.

The most important and justifiable and legitimate demand of the handloom sector is that powerlooms should not be permitted to weave cloth of more than 36 inches width. The Tamil Nadu Handloom weavers' Co-operative Society Ltd. has already submitted a memorandum to the hon Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi. One of the main demands included therein is that all *lungis*—*palayacot* varieties with bi-colour yarns—*Madras Checks*. *Bleeding Madras*—*real Madras handkerchiefs* etc. should be reserved for the handloom industry, and a statutory ban should be imposed on both powerloom mills and the powerloom sector, preventing the manufacture of such items, except, of course, with the provision that they can do so only when they do not exceed 36 inches.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, the State Government purchases handloom goods worth about Rs.25 crores. Similarly, in situation of stagnation like this, the Central Government should also come to the rescue of the handloom weavers by issuing instructions to all the Central Departments. Defence Department, the Post & Telegraph Department, to purchase their requirements from the apex weavers' co-operative societies. And the apex weavers' co-operative societies should be exempted from participating in the tenders for supply of goods.

I appeal to the Central Government to expedite this legislation reserving certain items specifically for the handloom sector. Certain vested interests are engaging in intensive lobbying to prevent such a law being

enacted. But, I submit that the welfare of millions of handloom weavers is more important than the prosperity of a few hundred millowners.

Therefore, I appeal to the Central Government to take a humanitarian view and expedite the passage of this Bill.

#### REFERENCE TO THE SHORTAGE OF SMALL COINS AND NOTES IN DELHI

SHRI VISHWA BANDU GUPTA (Delhi): Through you, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter with regard to the shortage of small coins in Delhi. Sir, the traders of Delhi are facing a lot of difficulties because of shortage of small coins and small notes. The Reserve Bank has not agreed to a local bank's request to distribute small coins to ease the situation. The traders in Delhi are fearing a much harder time on account of shortage of small coins and small notes. It is not only in Delhi but also in the rest of the country. The shortage of coins also creates an unfavourable image with the tourists who visit Delhi. People are resorting to trading of stamps, sweets etc. in place of small change. The matter should be looked into by the Currency Officer of the Reserve Bank of India to take immediate steps to solve the inconvenience to the public and to preserve the honesty of the trade and the traders.

#### REFERENCE TO THE DEMAND FOR DECLARATION OF ALLAHABAD UNIVERSITY AS A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश): मान्यवर, इलाहाबाद विश्व-विद्यालय देश के पुरातन विश्वविद्यालयों में से एक है। इसकी स्थापना सन 1887 में हुई थी और आज से 3 वर्ष बाद 1987 में इलाहाबाद विश्वविद्यालय