

[Mr. Chairman]

think we can proceed to the other part.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What is the ruling?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The ruling is that if there is a policy statement the Minister should not make it outside the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: And those who have made statements outside the House should tender an unqualified apology to the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That we will see later on. As far as Mr. Advani's question is concerned, I have cautioned it before and I have cautioned it again today.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gujarat): I expect them to lay the papers on the Table of the House so that, the announcement having been made outside the House, the House can have an occasion to discuss it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Prime Minister will probably see to it that this is laid on the Table of the House. Now, as regards the discussion, I would request the hon. Members to go on very punctually with the discussion on the Railway Budget. Unfortunately, in the press, not much note was taken of the discussions in this House, probably because the other Budget which was of a very rosy character took away all the space. But I hope the Members' suggestions on the Railway Budget will find adequate representation in the newspapers.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, you are not quite right. Shri Kamalapati Tripathi's photograph has been displayed very well, along with the freight and fare changes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the usual thing. We will now go on to the Calling Attention. (Interruptions). I hope that the Calling Attention and the special mentions will be finished before the lunch time so that after the lunch the important discussion on the Railway Budget will continue.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir during my absence I wrote to you on a privilege issue. I do not wish to press it. You have sent me a letter. I regret, Sir, you have not cared to hear what I wanted to say. It relates to the subject of making of a policy statement outside by the Minister. This was the matter I brought to the notice of the House through you. Unfortunately I was not present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Unfortunately you were not available. I will discuss it with you later.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Sir, I would like you to stay longer in the House every day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So that I hear you?

SHRI PILOO MODY: That is right. Leaving every day at 12-00 is rather suspicious.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have taken this step for a few days. Then I will be getting inured to the House and will be able to take a larger dose.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Proposed strike by Handloom workers of Kerala to protest against the exorbitant increase in the prices of all counts of hank yarn resulting in large scale unemployment in the Handloom Industry.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri R. R. Morarka) in the Chair]

SHRI K. CHATHUNNI MASTER (Kerala): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce to the proposed strike by handloom workers of Kerala from June 30, 1980, to protest against the exorbitant increase in the prices of all counts of hank yarns resulting in large scale unemployment in the handloom industry.

It is one of the traditional major industries in Kerala. Over 5 lakh handloom workers of Kerala who are covered under the central trade

unions of the INTUC and the CITU... (Interruption).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Order please. Let the hon. Minister make a statement on the Calling Attention.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Government have received a letter dated 30th May, 1980 addressed to the Prime Minister from the Kerala State Handloom Joint Action Council, Trivandrum stating that in the event of Government of India failing to concede to the following two requests, the workers would strike work on 30th June, 1980 and picket all Central Government offices:—

(i) Cotton hank yarn should be made available to the handloom industry at the rates prevalent in October, 1978; and

(ii) Uniform minimum wages should be introduced for handloom workers throughout the country.

The prices of yarn have been rising since the later part of 1978. The price ruling at present is, on an average 25 per cent higher than those ruling in October, 1978. During this period, there has also been an increase in costs of production especially on wages and fuel. The situation has been further aggravated by the severe power cuts imposed in some States. However, from April, 1980 there has been some stabilisation in the prices. With relaxation of power cuts expected in July, the prices of yarn are likely to come down. Government are keeping a close watch on the situation, and have been taking necessary steps to ensure the availability of yarn for the handloom industry. Arrangements have been made with the Indian Cotton Mills Federation to make available 23,000 bales every month in hank form at ex-mill rates to State Handloom Corporations and Apex Societies for further distribu-

tion to the weavers and their associations.

Regarding fixation of uniform minimum wages for the whole country, such minimum wages are determined at the State level taking into account the local conditions obtaining in different areas. It would not be feasible to have such a uniform wage fixed for the country in a decentralised industry like handloom.

SHRI K. CHATHUNNI MASTER: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, over five lakh handloom workers, organised under the central trade unions, INTUC, CITU, AITUC, UTUC and HMS, have decided to go on strike from the 30th of this month and to picket the Central Government offices where the handloom industries are concentrated. The main question is the exorbitant rise in the prices of all kinds of hank yarn. The handloom industry of Kerala cannot bear the burden of this price rise. So, unemployment is there among the handloom workers in a rampant way. So, the workers are compelled to go on strike and for direct action. Sir, there was a joint delegation from Kerala, representing all the workers' unions and handloom workers of the State's central co-operative society and the Handloom Development Corporation. They demanded that a special rebate be allowed for the handloom goods sold by the handloom primary weavers' co-operative societies and the Kerala Handloom Development Corporation because handloom products worth at least Rs. 10 crores have accumulated. And, Sir, in Kerala the "Onam" festival is coming. "Onam" is the biggest national festival of Kerala. It will come in August. Their demand is that at least a rebate of 20 per cent should be paid by the Central Government. And another demand is that yarn should be made available for the handlooms in the State at the rate which prevailed before the month of October, 1978. The joint delegation had requested the Government to take urgent steps to make yarn available at the rate

[Shri K. Chathuni Master]

which prevailed before October, 1978. But, to their disappointment, no effective steps have been taken by the Central Government so far. I hope the hon. Minister knows that this is not a question of the Kerala handloom industries alone. This is a national question. So, reducing the price rise, selling of the accumulated handloom stocks and giving of a sufficient rebate for it, these are the questions on which I want clarification and a proper reply.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the hon. Member has raised certain issues in connection with the demands of the handloom weavers in Kerala. In regard to the first point, I am happy to inform the hon. Member that we have already decided that a 20 per cent rebate will be made available to the handloom goods, and it is for the State Government to determine the period. He has indicated a particular festival season. At that time this 20 per cent rebate will be made available. It is for the State Government to decide the period. It will be operating for a period of 30 days. So they have to determine the period during which it will be operative.

In regard to the prices, I share the concern of the hon. Member that prices have gone high since October 1978, and the figures which I have with me clearly indicate that from October, 1978, in all kinds of counts there is an upward trend so far as prices are concerned. A little improving situation is there from April to June. There has been a marginal declining trend in various counts. I can quote some figures. So far as 10s is concerned, in March 1980 it was Rs. 66; April 1980—Rs. 66; June 1980, in the first week, it has come down to Rs. 63. That is the minimum. The Maximum is Rs. 68. So from 10 counts to 60 counts there is a little declining trend so far as prices are concerned. But I do agree with the honourable Member that it is not much, and we should try to see what

best can be done. The honourable Member is aware of the fact that there are two aspects to the problem: the first is availability and the second is availability at reasonable prices. So far as availability is concerned, it has been ensured that they will get their requirements. So far as prices are concerned, the earlier Government devised a certain formulation but that formulation ultimately did not work. The voluntary prices under roll-back scheme after September 1979 did not work. We are trying to see what mechanism could be evolved through which we can provide that yarn to the handloom sector at a reasonable price. In regard to accumulation of stocks that the honourable Member has mentioned, the problem with regard to Kerala units is mainly because of the peculiar situation prevailing there, because wages and other facilities given to the workers there are more compared to those of the handloom weavers in other areas, that is why we said the Government of India has not much to do, because still handloom sector is a big unorganised sector. Only 35 per cent of the handloom sector is covered either by cooperatives or by State-managed corporations. Therefore, it is not possible for us to indicate whether we can have a uniform wage rate for weavers throughout the country. The views of the various State Governments have to be taken into consideration. Here there is one interesting thing which perhaps the honourable Member is aware of. I would only request the honourable Member to impress upon his own State Government, even the State-owned spinning mills are not providing yarn at the price level of October 1978 because it varies from mill to mill. That is why mainly the problem is arising. Most of these supplies are made from Coimbatore area where there is a drastic powercut. As a result availability is not there. Therefore so far as these problems are concerned, we are trying to sort out things. One point is I have ensured that availability is there. In regard to prices,

to what extent we can reduce them, we are exploring the possibility.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Sir, my friend from Kerala has limited himself to *ad hoc* arrangements to get yarn, but the malady is deeper. It is not making yarn available at a cheaper price but producing more. Before asking for some clarifications from the Minister I would advise my friend from Kerala, our colleagues have no faith in co-operatives, that is difficulty of cooperative organisations. Whether in Kerala or West Bengal the State is not interested to organise cooperatives like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka or UP and so are not going ahead with co-operativisation massively. The States are not going ahead with cooperativisation even to organise spinning mills for supply of inputs to the handloom sector. The Minister said quite correctly, cooperative spinning mill in Kerala is languishing. No funds are available for expansion. Leaving aside this aspect it is for the Minister to advise Kerala Government that it is a much deeper problem, and for this purpose in the larger interests of the handloom industry, sympathetic and helpful attitudes are to be developed to create more facilities to produce yarn by the Government at the State level. The Central Government can also help. But my request to the Commerce Minister is this he should also not take an *ad hoc* attitude towards the basic problem raised by me in creating infrastructure to produce more yarn. He is aware that the yarn that is available from all the sources, composite mills, spinning mills, cooperative sector, and so on, is totally inadequate for the consumption of the installed capacity of the active handlooms working, as also the powerlooms working in this country. Now, for the last two or three years—I do not want to blame my friends on the left side for the inaction—there was no policy to encourage establishment of cooperative spinning mills and cooperativisation of decentralised textile industry. This Government has come to rule for

five years. I would, therefore, request the Minister to draw up a long-term strategy. In this connection I would like to bring to his notice some problems.

When Debi Babu was Commerce Minister, as President of a co-operative organisation I requested him to allocate some funds from his Ministry to the National Cooperative Development Corporation to enable them to participate in the equity of the handloom cooperative spinning mills. He was very kind and the Prime Minister also took note of it because this programme was a part of her 20 point programme. But the provision made in the present Commerce Ministry's budget or the previous Industry Ministry's budget to totally inadequate. A much larger provision has to be made, if you really want to attack chronic shortage of availability of inputs. You have said that yarn is available. The problem is basically availability of more and adequate yarn particularly through co-operatives whereby the price mechanism can be managed at the State and Central levels. In Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka there is also power loom production in the cooperative and decentralised small sector. Mr. Yadav will bring this out. There also the yarn availability is very poor. There will be large-scale unemployment if more is not produced. I am not casting any aspersion, but unfortunately the Janata Government took a very narrow view. Their Industry Ministry which controlled textiles did not provide funds to powerlooms and announced a defective textile policy. Now you are controlling textiles, Mr. Minister. Your priorities should be (1) handloom, (2) cotton growers, and (3) powerloom. There is paramount need of some token provision has to be made for powerloom so that the State Government can be enthused. The NCDC has informed that textile policy has taken no cognizance of powerlooms and no funds are earmarked by controlling departments. This is the very crux of the problem. There are 32

[Shri A. G. Kulkarni]

co-operative spinning mills registered in the whole country. They have no funds as NCDC has very meagre allocation from central Ministry. Handloom may get some funds; cotton growers may get some funds, but powerlooms are not getting funds. The Minister must apply his mind to this national problem for reasons mentioned above. It is not merely a problem in Uttar Pradesh or Maharashtra or Karnataka. At least some token provision should be made to the National Cooperative Development Corporation because the Industry or Commerce Ministry with the concurrence of the Planning Commission is charged with the responsibility of promotion of cooperative spinning mills for decentralised textile sector which comprises of handlooms and powerlooms.

I also want to bring to the notice of the Minister that due to the power cut to the extent of 60 per cent in Tamil Nadu and 45 per cent power cut in Maharashtra; in Kerala there is no much power cut this season because of their hydel power projects the cost price has gone up because of the increase in conversion cost. For that we are pleading with the Industry Ministry to allow us to purchase imported diesel generating sets. Customs duty should be withdrawn because these co-operatives are social organisations and cannot afford. I think the Minister will apply his mind and take a decision on this.

I am very grateful to my colleague from Kerala for bringing forward this Calling Attention. Infact this problem was very much agitating my mind and I was wondering how to bring this to the notice of the Minister. There are only two problems. One is that a long-term view has to be taken in regard to availability of more inputs like yarn. The price will take care of itself then. The problem is that my leftist friends have no faith in cooperatives. In the State of Bengal there is just one dilapidated cooperative mill. I do not remember

its name, might be Kalyani. This is a State subject, cooperatives are on concurrent list, the centre can only advise and persuade. The National Co-operative Development Corporation is entrusted responsibility of creating more infrastructure for handloom and powerloom and cotton growers, and so State has to take initiative. I would request the honourable Minister to call a meeting of the co-operative central organisation i.e. All India Federation of Cooperative Spinning Mills and others interested. With your help and with your sympathy and with adequate funds the infrastructural organisation can be created. Sir, I would also like to draw his attention to one more aspect. This organisation, with the help of the National Co-operative Development Corporation and with the help of the Planning Commission and with the help of his Ministry has submitted a plan for Rs. 500 crores to the World Bank for establishing new co-operative spinning mills marketing and processing cooperatives for the handloom sector. Sir, I would congratulate the Finance Minister that he is funding as per new budget Handloom Development Corporation. I think in the earlier Indira Gandhi Government, a Handloom Development Commissioner was appointed. Now, this is a further step and this is a logical step and a right step. Go ahead with it and move also the World Bank to grant cheap loan which have already assured to consider favourably in inter-Ministerial meetings or at meetings with the Government. I would now request you to call a meeting of the officers of the All-India Federation, your Ministry, the National Co-operative Development Corporation and the State Directors of Handlooms and financing institutions. I would request you to evolve a strategy for a rational development of this sector. This is going to sustain a large amount of employment. So, it is better to do this than to invest in the composite mills. I have done, Sir. But I would request the Minister to be more sympathetic to my request and I also thank my friends from Kerala who have raised

this question. This is a very important question and this is a question of national importance.

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, I want to submit one thing. I think he can give his reply at his convenience. But...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Mr. Madhavan, we have to follow some procedure here. Your name is not there in the list. But, if you want to make any submission, I am prepared to accommodate you at the end. But before that I have to call so many other speakers. Kindly wait for your chance.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I am grateful to the honourable Member, Shri Kulkarni, for giving many suggestions. I agree with him that it is not merely a question of the employees, but it is also a question of availability and we cannot have some *ad hoc* measures only. Through some sort of *ad hoc* measures we can get over a temporary crisis. But, ultimately, we must ensure that an adequate quantum is supplied to the weavers and for that we must have a programme of expansion of the spinning capacity of the mills in the country. Unless we do it, definitely there will be a shortfall and it would not be in a position to meet the growing demands from the handloom sector, powerloom sector and the various other sectors. Sir, in fact, Mr. Kulkarni has suggested various measures which we should take to overcome the crisis and I have already decided, and he has also suggested while making his observations, that we should have a meeting with the representatives of the various organisations including the State Governments to see to what extent we can bring this unorganised sector of weavers within the purview of the co-operative sector. In certain States, the co-operative movement is powerful and it has been possible for us to bring many of them within the umbrella of co-operatives. But, in many other areas, the co-operative movement is weak and, as a result of this, and also because they are unorganised, it has not been possible for

us to make the benefits reach them. For want of necessary infrastructure, it has not been possible to make the benefits reach those people. For instance, as I have mentioned, taking into account the highly organised co-operative sector in Maharashtra, Gujarat and in certain other States, I can say that about 25 per cent of the weavers are covered by the co-operative sector. Notionally they are covered. But actually the society is not in a position to provide assistance in whatever way they want. For instance, even if take a decision that the mills will give at 'X' ex-mill rate to the organisations for distribution, there is no adequate machinery to take the yarn to the weavers. Therefore, it is utmost necessary to bring them within some sort of an organisation or the co-operative movement. Co-operatives are the only and the best answer and it has already been decided upon. So, we are having a meeting of the various agencies connected with this problem and we will find a solution for this.

With regard to expansion of the capacity, Sir, we have already initiated certain steps and it would be possible for me to indicate the Government's policy so far as the expansion of the capacity in the various textile sectors is concerned.

With regard to the allocation of funds, Sir, we shall have to see to what extent we can do it. We have the National Handloom Development Corporation and we have made certain token allocations and it was announced by the Finance Minister in his speech, in his Budget speech. But, as Mr. Kulkarni has very correctly pointed out, it is a logical step forward from the Handloom Commissioner for this Corporation to take care of the problems of handloom weavers in their entirety.

Similarly, in regard to the other sectors, as Mr. Kulkarni has mentioned about the powerloom sector, I do feel that they also deserve some attention and we shall have to do something, because, after all, it is existing. One thing we shall have to keep in mind, and that is whatever capacity has been

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]
created in whatever areas, we must try to utilise that in the best possible manner. It is no use creating capacity in one area and then take a decision that we shall not expand in that particular area. After all, it is the community's resources being invested there. Therefore, the logical conclusion would be to have optimum utilisation of it.

I will definitely look into the suggestion Mr. Kulkarni has made in that matter.

So far as this problem is concerned, as the Calling Attention was strictly connected with the Kerala problems, I could not spell out the details in regard to the policy matters in this important sector. But as and when the time comes, definitely I myself will come forward with a statement indicating the policy.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Only one point. Perhaps the Minister may not have heard what I said. Along with the constraint of funds, there is another constraint. The indigenous textile machinery manufacturers have been giving very delayed periods, thereby necessitating import. For that purpose there is an inter-ministerial group in the Ministries of Commerce and Industry in regard to liberalised and subsidised imports for the NTC and co-operatives. I hope, in the meeting the Minister is going to have, this aspect also would be gone into. If I remember rightly, there is one Additional Secretary of Industry; I do not want to mention his name. A small inter-ministerial committee was formed, because the textile machinery manufacturers in this country are giving delayed periods, for liberalised imports. But the customs duty is coming in the way. That question should also be considered.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I shall take it up with the Finance Minister.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (बिहार) : मंत्री महोदय ने बहुत सी बातें साफ कीं। उन्होंने कहा कि 35 प्रतिशत की जो

हैंडलूम प्रोडक्शन है, वह कोआपरेटिव के मातहत है और बहुत सी इनके सामने दिक्कतें भी हैं सबको कोआपरेटिव के आधार पर लाने के लिए। राज्यों का अपना हिसाब है। इनकी भी दिक्कतें हैं।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस बात पर आपको विश्वास नहीं है कि कोआपरेटिव के मातहत जो हैंडलूम इण्डस्ट्री हैं, उनमें उत्पादन ज्यादा हुआ है बनिस्बत उनके जो कोआपरेटिव में नहीं हैं, इनकी छत्रछाया में नहीं हैं। यदि यह बात सही है तो क्या आप जो कहते हैं कि सबसे विचार करना होगा—लेकिन नेशनल पालिसी बनाने में तो कोई दिक्कत नहीं हो सकती। इसको बनाने में आपको क्या दिक्कत होती है ?

दूसरी बात, हैंडलूम वर्कज के जो मिनिमम वेजेज हैं, उनको स्ट्रिकटली एनफोर्स, इम्प्लिमेंट करने के लिए क्या एक टाइम-बाउंड प्रोग्राम रखेंगे और कम से कम देखेंगे कि इनकी मिनिमम वेजेज—पहले तो हर स्टेट में वैरी करता है—उसको भी आप खत्म कर सकते हैं। आपने कहा कि बात मुश्किल है युनिफार्म पालिसी बनाना। लेकिन मैं नहीं समझता कि कोई दिक्कत होगी। हर राज्य में युनिफार्म पालिसी मिनिमम वेजेज के लिए आप कर सकते हैं और उसको स्ट्रिकटली इम्प्लिमेंट करेंगे। यही मेरे दो-तीन सवाल हैं, कोआपरेटिव के लिए नेशनल पालिसी बनाने में क्या दिक्कत है और उनकी मिनिमम वेजेज इम्प्लिमेंट करने के लिए आप कौनसी मशीनरी बना रहे हैं ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, in the text of my main reply, I have said that we have to take the views of the State Governments. After all, they have to implement it and it is

100

their subject. And I cannot impose a particular wage structure just upon their head without taking into account their resources position. Therefore, it is not possible for me to indicate whether we can just have it right now, but definitely we can throw this idea to the State Government, when we will have discussions with them, whether we can bring some of a uniformity in the wage structure.

In regard to the co-operatives, Sir, I do agree with the hon. Member that, as it is, it is not possible to bring 100 per cent weavers within the co-operative sector. But at the same time we shall go on making our efforts to bring them more and more under certain organisational pattern. At the same time, Sir, certain other agencies and institutions should be there to reach the benefits of the various schemes so that they can get those advantages. And for that, we have suggested not merely the co-operatives, but some apex bodies, and whether the State Governments can earmark certain specialised agencies to take care of the problems of the weavers. But the basic problem would be that since this is such a scattered and widely spread industry, unless there are certain agencies concentrating on them, it would be difficult to reach the benefits to them, and it may be the supply of yarn or providing them the necessary help for marketing their products or organising training for them. And we shall have to take into account all these aspects and there is no fundamental difference between the hon. Member's suggestion and our approach. The question is how we can put it into practice, and we are at it.

SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA (Kerala): Sir, the handloom industry in Kerala could be divided into three sectors. One is of course the co-operative sector; another one is the private, organised sector under the factory system, and the third is the individual weaver. All these three sectors are at present undergoing very great hardship on account of the very high prohibitive price of cotton hank

yarn and also the difference in wages in different States.

First of all, I would like to submit that the yarn price, as has been mentioned earlier, has gone up in a very prohibitive manner. The hon. Minister has pointed out that since October, the rise in the price is only by 25 per cent. I am sorry, Sir, I cannot agree with him. The real price difference is more than 50 per cent. They say that in Tamil Nadu they have raised the prices of yarn because of scarcity of electricity during summer months. But this is not the case always. Summer in Madras will be for about three months. Barring one or two months, during all the other months, the prices have gone up very high in Tamil Nadu in the Coimbatore mill area. There is another difficulty. The co-operative or the National Textile people are prepared to give the yarn at a reduced price. But they say that because of competition in the market and the scarcity of yarn, they have to increase the prices in comparison to the prices ruling in Bombay and other markets.

Therefore, Sir, I want to submit that first of all the prices should be brought down. I do not know whether the price rise is due to power failure and all those things. If that is so, the Government will have to do something in the matter. I would rather suggest that for the handloom industry, just to keep up this traditional industry, these prices have to be stabilised or even subsidised. That is one request of mine.

Sir, another point is that the Government have always been thinking of the handloom industry under the co-operative sector only. I would say that in Kerala alone, more than half of the handloom industry is under the private sector, either the private weavers or the organised sector under the factory system. Therefore, any help given to the handloom industry has to be given to the organised industry also, instead of confining it only to the co-operative sector. That is one thing.

I come from Calicut where before Independence there were about 52

[Shri B. V. ABDULLA KOYA]

organised very big handloom factories. Now, I am sorry to bring to the notice of the Minister that only four or five small factories are struggling for their very existence. That is because the organised sector has to pay the wages and provide the amenities to workers as laid down under the Factories Act or under the Insurance Act or the Provident Fund Act etc, but, at the same time, they are not given any rebate or any other thing from the Government. The Handloom Development Corporations throughout the country, I understand, are looking after only the co-operative sector. I would ask the Minister, why should the Government give help to kill the industries in the organised and private sector in order to bring up the co-operative sector industries? I would say that one handloom industry in the co-operative sector in Kerala is not running satisfactorily. On the other hand, handloom industries in the organised sector are working very nicely and they deserve all the help and facilities being given to them. They are giving all the facilities to workers and benefits like provident fund and all other amenities suggested by the Government are being given by them to workers.

Another trouble is that the quality of yarn has gone down very much. Formerly we used to say that the Harvey Mills and the Premier Mills used to produce the best yarn available in India. But unfortunately nowadays we find that most of the supplies are of bad quality. There is no control on the quality of yarn. That aspect also must be looked into.

Another matter is marketing. I do not think that this is the time to take up all these things. But still I would say that the Handloom Development Corporations both at the Centre and in the States should look into these things and try to improve the quality of yarn. Now the factory owners under the private sector are only looking after the introduction of new designs and other things. But from the Government side no help is given

to them. These things are to be looked into.

As far as wages are concerned, there should be uniformity in wages as far as possible at least region wise or on a regional basis. Kerala is paying the highest wages but, at the same time, in the adjoining States like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and other places the wages are very very low yet nobody is bothered about it. Therefore, migration of industries is taking place. I am bringing these matters to the notice of the Government and I would like to know what the Government is proposing to do in order to ease the situation.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the hon. Member has given certain suggestions in regard to the organised sector in the handloom industry. When I emphasise on co-operatives, it does not mean that the other sectors are to be neglected and it is not the intention of the Government to kill one particular sector in order to encourage the other sector. So, I feel that he should not have got this impression that the organised sector was being killed only to encourage the co-operative sector. He has himself admitted the inherent difficulties in the organised handloom sector in Kerala. The wage structure and amenities given to workers are much more as compared to their counterparts in other States. As a result when the question of marketing comes, you find the position disadvantageous. So far as the question of uniformity in the wage pattern is concerned, the same demand was raised by the Kerala Government in regard to the cashew processing units in the absence of which there was migration from Kerala to certain other adjoining areas. At best, I can suggest to you that if you feel so much about it, you can take a decision in consultation with the Chief Ministers and local Governments in that region. But so far as we are concerned, it is not possible for us to direct any State Government to follow a particular pattern which is followed by another State Government. This is simply not possible for us to do. We can throw a suggestion to them.

I They can explore the possibility, and see to what extent they can bring uniformity. But this is essentially a State subject and it would not be proper on the part of the Government of India to direct any State Government to follow a pattern which was being pursued by another State Government. It is for you to decide. And I gave this suggestion to Kerala Chief Minister that if you feel so strongly, you can have a discussion with your counterparts in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and in certain other neighbouring States so that you can evolve a uniform policy. So far as we are concerned, it would not be possible for us to issue any directives. That I want to make clear to the hon. Member. Whatever facilities are given to the handloom sector in any other part of the country, are being extended to Kerala also.

In regard to the availability, quality and the price, I have already explained the position. So far as the quality is concerned, of course, I do not have any readymade answer; I will have to check up as to why quality is going down and what are the reasons for it. But in regard to availability, it is the price which stands in the way. The figures which I gave for Kerala will indicate that their total requirement is 2,600 bales per month and we are providing them 2,075 bales and there is a shortage of 400 or 500 bales. But even these 2,075 bales are not being lifted mainly because of the price. Therefore, so far as availability is concerned, it has been arranged out to reduce the price, we shall have to take certain other measures. I have already indicated in reply to a clarification to Mr. Kulkarni that I am shortly going to have a meeting with all concerned, including the suppliers, the Indian Cotton Mills Manufacturers' Federation so that we can ensure to what extent we can reduce the price, and it is hoped—as is the trend—and I have already quoted the figures that from April onwards, there is a marginal decline,—the position may improve and if the production goes up.

I do feel it may have some effect on the price also.

I do not think the hon. Member mentioned any other point.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

उप-सहाय्यक सहाय्य, मंत्री जी ने कुछ ऐसा उत्तर दिया है कि जिस ने हम को दुविधा में डाल दिया है और सदन को भी दुविधा में डाल दिया है। मैं उस हलाकत से आया हूँ जहाँ पर हैंडलूम का काम हजारों वर्ष से होता रहा है। पौराणिक ग्रंथों में भी आप को मिलेगा, काशी और वाराणसी वा जो इलका है और उस के साथ पूरा पूर्वोचल आप ले लीजिए वहाँ हैंडलूम का काम होता था। उस का स्तर जो आज गिरा हुआ है उस का रैस्पॉन्सिबिलिटी किस का है। मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार की जो नीतियाँ चली आ रही हैं पहले से, यह नीतियाँ ही उस के लिये दोषी हैं। कबीर साहब का नाम मंत्री जी को मालूम होगा। कबीर साहब भी एक कपड़ा बुनकर थे और उन क द्वारा बनाया हुआ कपड़ा जरूर कुछ लोगों ने पहना होगा। मैं कुछ सरकारी आँकड़े आप के सामने रखना चाहूँगा, लेकिन पहले मैं अपनी कुछ खास खास बातें आप के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। जो पिछली जनता पार्टी की सरकार थी उस सरकार में भी मैंने इस बात का उठाया था कि पूरे देश में कृषि के बाद अगर देखा जाय तो यह हस्त करघा का उद्योग ही दूसरे नम्बर पर है और कृषि पर जितने लोग निर्भर हैं उस के आधे लोग इस उद्योग पर निर्भर करते हैं। सरकारी आँकड़े कहते हैं कि अभी भी हमारे मुल्क में करीब एक करोड़ लोग इस पर निर्भर करते हैं।

श्रीमान्, मैं मंत्री जी का दावत देता हूँ, मैं उनकी निमंत्रण देता हूँ, पूर्वोचल

[श्री रामेश्वर सिंह]

से, बनारस में मैं आपका निमन्त्रण देता हूँ कि आप हमारे साथ चलिये और देखिये कि वहाँ की हालत क्या है। करघे बन्द होते चले जा रहे हैं। अभी साउथ के हमारे जो साथी हैं उन लोगों ने भी इसका जिक्र किया कि जो करघे 15 साल; 20 साल पहले या अंग्रेजों के जमाने में चलते थे, जहाँ 50-60 करघे चलते थे वहाँ पर आज 5-7 करघे चल रहे हैं। इसका मुख्य कारण क्या है? दाम में जो बढ़ोतरी दी जा रही है वह न्यायोचित नहीं है। श्रीमन् यह विषय इतना विशाल है, इस पर मैं चाहता हूँ कि सदन कोई समय निश्चित करें और इस पर पूरी डिबेट हो क्योंकि जिसनी आवादी इस देश के अन्दर हैंडलूम पर निर्भर करती है, जितने कड़े की जरूरत है, जितना मिल तैयार करता है उसका आधा हैंडलूम से तैयार होता है। यह सरकार का इंडस्ट्री का रिपोर्ट है। सरकारी आंकड़ों के द्वारा मान्य होता है कि सरकार का जो नीतियाँ हैं वह ठीक नहीं हैं। मैं उसका कड़े शब्दों में नहीं कहना चाहता क्योंकि कड़े शब्दों में कहने से लोग बौखलाने लगते हैं पर इतना जरूर बहुत हूँ कि ये नीतियाँ अदूरदर्शितापूर्ण और इतनी कमजोर नीतियाँ हैं जिनकी वजह से यह उद्योग मरता चला जा रहा है।

श्रीमन् मंत्री जी ने कहा कि मैं इतनी गांठें सूत देने की बात सोच रहा हूँ। मैं आपका बताऊँ कि हमने देखा कि अभी 240 करोड़ मीटर कपड़ा विदेशों में एक्सपोर्ट हो रहा है हैंडलूम का। हैंडलूम पर जो लोग काम करते हैं सरकार का इरादा है कि इसे 600 करोड़ मीटर तक ले जाने का उनका लक्ष्य है, आज जब कि केवल 320 करोड़ मीटर कपड़ा तैयार हो रहा है। तो

मंत्री जी से मैं ज्यादा विवाद न करके उक्त दावत दे रहा हूँ कि आप पूर्वांचल में चलकर देखें क्योंकि ये बड़े सुलझे हुए मंत्री हैं ये कोई ऐसी बमेटो बनायें जो देखे कि क्या कारण है कि जहाँ हजारों वर्षों से हैंडलूम उद्योग था वह उद्योग सिकुड़ते सिकुड़ते कम होता चला गया, घरातल में चला गया। मैं पिछले साल जनता गवर्नमेंट की एक कमेटी में साउथ में गया था। मैंने देखा कि वहाँ के लोगों ने इतनी मेहनत करके इस व्यवसाय को डेवलप किया है तो क्या कारण है कि हमारे पूर्वांचल के इलाके में जहाँ गरीबी का रेखा के नीचे लोग हैं, जहाँ गोबर से अनाज के दो निकालकर अपना भरण-पोषण करते हैं वहाँ गरीबी की जो रेखा है वह सबसे सतही, सबसे निचली है। जो देश में गरीबी की रेखा है उससे निचला पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश का हिस्सा है। पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के लोग घरबार छोड़कर, करघे बंद करके बाहर भागते जा रहे हैं। कोई कलकत्ता की पटरी पर चला जाता है। हमारे मंत्री जी जानते हैं कि पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के लोग कलकत्ता की पटरियों पर जा कर सोते हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Kindly put your question. We have to finish this discussion before lunch.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : मैं केवल एक्जाम्पल दे रहा हूँ, मैंने पहले ही कहा है कि मैं ज्यादा समय इस पर नहीं लेना चाहता। मैं वल दो तीन सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री जी मेरठवाणी करके मेरे सुझावों को नोट कर लें। एक सुझाव यह है कि सूत का पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में आानी से पहुंचाने को व्यवस्था को जाए। दूसरी बात यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री जी कई क आपपेटिव स्टोर या कई सरकारी दुकान वहाँ पर ऐसी

खोलें जहाँ पर बुनकर जा कर आसानी से सूत को ले सकें ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपना दर्द सुना रहा हूँ। आप जानते हैं कि बंगलौर से सूत आता है बनारस। कोई भी ऐसी ट्रेन नहीं है, कोई भी ऐसा साधन नहीं है जो एक महीने से कम समय में उनके पास माल पहुंचा दे। बूक कराने के बाद उनको माल लेने में एक-एक महीना लग जाता है, वहाँ से बूक कराने के लिये या वहाँ से बनारस लाने के लिये। महीने-महीने तक लोग इंतजार करते रहते हैं। मेरा यह सुझाव है कि आप कोई ऐसी दुकान खोलें, सरकारी दुकान खोलें, जहाँ से उनका सूत मिल सके। मेरा अगला सुझाव यह है कि जो कपड़ा वहाँ तैयार होता है, मंत्री जी से मैं बहुत दर्द के साथ कह रहा हूँ क्योंकि हम उस इलाके को देख रहे हैं। हम गरीबी में पैदा हुए हैं और गरीबी को हम जानते हैं, उन बेचारे बुनकरों की क्या हालत है यह हम अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं इसलिये वे वह कपड़ा कहां जाकर दें इसके लिये आपको इंतजाम करना होगा।

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (Shri R. R. Morarka): Kindly put your Question. We have to finish this discussion before Lunch.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : उनकी जानकारी के लिये दे रहा हूँ।

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (Shri R. R. Morarka): The Minister knows it. If you have got questions, please put them for clarification.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : मंत्री जी को अच्छी तरह मालूम होगा कि वहाँ के लोग रोज साड़ी तैयार करते हैं और लेकर गलियों में घूमते हैं। इन साड़ियों को आदती लोग लेकर रख लेते हैं। वे जो उनको चैक काट कर दे देते हैं और वे इस चैक को अपने घर रख लेते हैं।

जो सूद पर काम करने वाले लोग हैं उनके पास वह चैक 10-15 परसेंट पर गिरवी रख देते हैं और उसके बदले में पैसा लै लेते हैं। मैं चाहूंगा मंत्री जी कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था करें कि जो कपड़ा बेचने जाए उसका कपड़ा खरीद लिया जाए। 70 परसेंट पैसा या 50 परसेंट पैसा उसको दे दिया जाए। इससे यह होगा कि जो बिचौलिये हैं और बुनकरों से योही 10-20 परसेंट वशूल कर लेते हैं वह न हों सकेगा और उससे बुनकरों को फायदा होगा। चौथी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री जी पूर्वी-उत्तर प्रदेश में कोई ऐसा कारखाना स्थापित करवायेंगे जहाँ सूत तैयार हो और वहाँ के लोगों को आसानी से सूत, उपलब्ध हो सके और बम्बई, कलकत्ता दिल्ली और बंगलौर पर उनको निर्भर न रहना पड़े। मैं चाहूंगा मंत्री जी कोई इस ढंग की व्यवस्था करें। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप मुझको माफ करेंगे मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि हम लोग कितने दुखी हैं, मन में कितना गुस्सा है आप इसका अंदाजा स्वयं लगा सकते हैं। सारे देश की दौलत कलकत्ता, बम्बई, दिल्ली, बंगलौर में है। ये प्रदेश हम को उजाड़ कर बने हैं। पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के इलाके हिन्दुस्तान के सबसे गरीब और सबसे पिछड़े हुए हैं। जहाँ के लोगों ने आजादी की लड़ाई में कोई कम खिदमत नहीं की है। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं मंत्री जी से पुनः कहता हूँ कि वह हमारे यहाँ चल कर देखें। श्याम लाल जी से भी कहता हूँ कि वह उनको बनारस ले जाकर दिखाएं कि वहाँ की क्या हालत है क्योंकि आप भी सत्तापार्टी के लोग हैं।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I am really grateful to the hon. Member for inviting me to those areas, particularly to see the conditions. Invitation to Varanasi is always attractive.

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

tive (*Interruptions*). Yes, Kashi and Viswanath also. But apart from that I am aware of the problems, particularly, in those areas. As I have mentioned earlier, the problems of handloom weavers are not limited to any particular area, like Kerala or some other State. More so, where they are not very organised, their difficulties are more and we must try to see to what extent we can help them.

The whole objective of setting up the National Handloom Development Corporation, which was announced yesterday by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech, is to look into the problem in the larger perspective and to take corrective and remedial measures. But we find there are three major problems. The first problem is that of getting the necessary inputs, the raw materials. The second problem is that of marketing. And the third problem which Mr. Singh has very correctly pointed out is the problem of adequate finances from the financial institutions. And this is a hard fact of life that in spite of the establishment of rural branches of the commercial banks or the Regional Rural Banks or the cooperative societies—even if we take all these institutions together—we have not been able to cover a substantial part of the rural credit. Still they have to depend on the traditional money-lenders and pay exorbitant rates. Therefore, we must build up certain agencies through which we can provide this package of assistance to the handloom weavers.

In regard to the establishment of the yarn spinning mills in the eastern UP, I do not know whether there is any specific proposal just at the moment, but definitely I shall look into it and examine it. I have already mentioned in reply to earlier questions that we must expand the capacities so that we can meet the demands of the weavers. One need not emphasise the role and importance of the weaving section and the weavers in Indian economy, not

merely from the point of view of the old traditional heritage which we are having in this sector but from the point of view of its employment potentialities. Therefore, all efforts should be made to see that it becomes healthy and economically viable.

I can assure the hon. Member that whatever suggestions he has given, definitely we will look into them and if he wants to give any fresh suggestions for any particular project, we welcome him to do so. We will get the opportunity of discussing in further details all the various problems during Budget discussions and in other appropriate forums. Definitely we will take note of these.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Shri Shyam Lal Yadav. May I request you to just put questions?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV (Uttar Pradesh): I will be very brief. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I support the steps that have recently been taken to alleviate the difficulties faced by the handloom industry. In that connection, I think the establishment of the National Handloom Development Corporation will go a long way in solving the problems of marketing.

Sir, I would like to put this before the hon. Minister that this problem, as he has said again and again, is not peculiar to Kerala alone, but similar problems exist in other parts of the country, including Uttar Pradesh also. Mr. Rameshwar Singh has just referred to it. I would like to tell him that there is a spinning mill at Mahu, but there is no silk spinning mill. The yarn that he has referred to is coming from Bangalore. That is the usual silk yarn that comes from Bangalore. But there is one spinning mill for cotton yarn at Mahu and one cooperative mill at Etawa in U.P. My question is this. These spinning mills—whether in the cooperative sector or in the State sector at Mahu—are not doing well and the yarn that they are supplying is very costly.

The Government should take some steps to reduce the price of the popular variety of yarn that is used by the weaker sections—the weavers. So my first question is, what steps the hon. Minister proposes to take in that regard. This is the greatest difficulty that these weavers are facing.

Then there is the problem of marketing. That problem has perhaps been taken care of by establishing the National Handloom Development Corporation. But there are cooperative societies in Varanasi and also in Mahu and other parts of the State. These cooperative societies sell yarn also and they purchase handloom cloth also. But they are not able to sell it. My question is, what steps the Government wants to take to strengthen the cooperative societies that are supplying yarn to the weavers or that are marketing the handloom products. The third point is that the nationalised banks under the policy of the Government of India advance small loans to the handloom weavers for purchase of their machinery or for purchase of some yarn. But, over the period, because of the difficulties faced by these weavers, they have not been able to pay off the loans and a large amount of loans is outstanding against a large number of weavers, which sum is not outstanding against one person but small amounts of, say, Rs. 500 outstanding against a large number of weavers and these weavers are not able to pay them off. The Minister of State for Commerce, Shri Ansari, who comes from U.P. is in the know of these difficulties. Shri Mishra also knows about it. I hope that steps could be taken to wipe off this debt from the small handloom weavers who are not able to pay off the debt when their machinery is already auctioned. So there I hope some steps will be taken so that the small debts are written off. Lastly I would like to submit for the consideration of the Government that the powerloom sector should also be looked at as such because along with the handloom sector now this powerloom sector is also coming up in all parts, so

that the weaving mills should give yarn to the powerlooms also. And in that connection I agree with the suggestion of Shri Kulkarni that the National Co-operative Development Corporation should be given sufficient funds so that the powerloom sector also can produce yarn and supply to the weavers.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, Mr. Yadav has given three suggestions: one in regard to the supply of yarn; second about the marketing of the products of handloom; and third about their indebtedness and what we could do about it. Sir, in regard to the first point. I have already mentioned about it in the text of my main reply and elsewhere. If he is interested to have the figures, I can give the figures for Uttar Pradesh. Of course, I do not have the figures for the eastern U.P. But, so far as U.P. as a whole is concerned, the supply position is like this. In October 1979, it was 3,710 bales and that figure is being maintained. Figures up to January 1980 I have got with me. And we have also suggested to the various suppliers that they must give it either to the apex co-operative societies or to the corporations set up by the State Governments in that behalf. If any complaint is received, definitely we shall be prepared to look into that. But, as you know, the price varies from mill to mill. Price is a ticklish thing. We will have to discuss with them to rationalise and reduce it to the extent possible. In regard to marketing, which is really a very big problem, unless we have certain agencies to provide benefits of marketing, it would be really difficult for an individual entrepreneur or individual weaver to go and market it at a reasonable price. Either he will have the option to depend solely on the middle men or certain organisations should come up and build it up. I think when the National Handloom Corporation starts operating and functioning, they will look into this aspect. Adequate finances is really a

serious problem. Whatever finance they have come from the institutional arrangements and if we were to liquidate or write off the loans, then they would not have the resources to give finances to the other people. On the other hand, when these people have to depend on the moneylenders, they have to pay exorbitant rates of interest. So some arrangement should be made to see how we can break this circle. That is why I am afraid it will not be possible to write off the debts completely, but what arrangements can be made, whether it can be paid back in easy instalments, are questions we shall have to discuss with the State Governments to take remedial measures.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार ने भी यह स्वीकार किया है कि 65% हैंडलूम का क्षेत्र अनआर्गनाइज्ड है और उसका मुख्य कारण यह है कि हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री का नार्मल बेसेज फेमिली यूनिट बनता है। वह ज्यादा कंजीनियल इकोनॉमिक और मनेजेबल है। कोआपरेटिव सेक्टर का मैं समर्थक हूँ। लेकिन यह बात साफ है कि जो आज कोआप्रेटिव सेक्टर की स्थिति है उसमें फेमिली यूनिट सेक्टर को कोआप्रेटिव सेक्टर में जाने के लिए बहुत ज्यादा उत्साह नहीं है। अगर वास्तव में हम हैंडलूम की मदद करना चाहते हैं तो यह 65% अनआर्गनाइज्ड सेक्टर है इसकी तरफ भी ध्यान देना पड़ेगा। तो मेरा सवाल होगा कि जो हैंडलूम डवलपमेंट कारपोरेशन जिसका गठन होने वाला है उसमें इस 65% अनआर्गनाइज्ड सेक्टर को रिप्रेजेंटेशन एडीक्वेट होगा, क्या इस बात की सरकार एश्योरेंस देगी। क्योंकि तभी इसकी बेसिक मेलाडीज का निवारण हो सकेगा।

आज भी हैंडलूम सेक्टर के क्षेत्र में कठिनाइयाँ पैदा हो रही हैं। हम शाब्दिक रूप से यह स्वीकार कर लेते हैं कि 65% अनआर्गनाइज्ड सेक्टर है लेकिन मुझे क्षमा

करेंगे कि न सरकार की ओर से न फाइनेंसिंग एजेंसीज की ओर से इस नेग्लेक्टिड सेक्टर के लिए किसी तरह की मदद की गुंजाइश की व्यवस्था की जाएगी। यही सेक्टर है जिसको सब से ज्यादा शिकायत नान-अवेलेबिलिटी आफ यान की है यह सेक्टर है जिसको ऊँचे दाम और समय पर चीजें न मिलने की शिकायत है। क्योंकि यह इतना नेग्लेक्टिड है। यह आर्गनाइज्ड एनान-कोआप्रेटिव सेक्टर और आर्गनाइज्ड कोआप्रेटिव सेक्टर ही हैं जिनको यान अवेलेबल हो रहा है। यह उसका 99% मोप-अप कर देते हैं। इस अनआर्गनाइज्ड सेक्टर को दोबारा इन्हीं एजेंसीज के द्वारा ज्यादा पैसे दे कर खरीदना पड़ता है। अगर सरकारी आकड़े देखेंगे तो अनआर्गनाइज्ड हैंडलूम सेक्टर जो है वही 50% से ज्यादा हैंडलूम सेक्टर की चीजें पैदा कर रहा है। इसलिए मैं चाहूँगा कि सरकार इस सेक्टर के बारे में इसको यान अवेलेबिलिटी के लिए कोई लिंक एजेंसीज ऐसी बनायेगी या कुछ राशन कार्ड की ऐसी व्यवस्था करेगी कि अनआर्गनाइज्ड सेक्टर को भी एक मिनिमम क्वांटिटी आफ यान सरकार द्वारा दिया जा सके। उसकी क्रेडेंसिटी के आधार पर वह एक राशन कार्ड सिस्टम इंट्रोड्यूस करे ताकि अनआर्गनाइज्ड सेक्टर को भी यान सरकारी रेट पर मिल सके। इसकी सरकार व्यवस्था करे। साथ ही साथ ऐसे कुछ सेक्टरज मार्कीटिंग और परचेजिंग के बनाए जहाँ पर यह अनआर्गनाइज्ड सेक्टर अपनी फिनिश्ड चीजों को दे सकें और एडवांस ले कर आगे का कुछ काम चाल कर सकें तथा इन एजेंसीज की माफ़त यह चीजें बेची जा सकें।

एक्यूमुलेटड स्टॉक का जो सवाल है वह केरल तक सीमित नहीं है। अनफारचुनेटली टेंडेंसीज फिर से एटी-हैंडलूम पैदा की जा रही है। इस बात की तरफ भी त्वज्जह दी जाए कि हैंडलूम को फिर से बैकग्राउंड में डाल कर या इसके नाम पर

जो दूसरे पावर-लूम इसका फायदा उठा रहे हैं, इस बात की कोशिश करनी पड़ेगी कि टोटल इम्प्लायमेंट प्रॉब्लम को देखते हुए हैंडलूम सेक्टर के नाम पर दूसरे लोग फायदा न उठा सकें। नेगलेक्टिड अनआर्गनाइज्ड हैंडलूम सेक्टर, जो इसका 650 बलक है, इसकी तरफ ध्यान जा कर इसके फाइनेंसिंग, इसके राशन कार्ड की मार्फत यार्न दिलाने की व्यवस्था हो और ऐसे कुछ सेंटर्स बनाए जाएं जहां कि यह अनआर्गनाइज्ड सेक्टर अपनी चीजों को बचने के लिए माल भेज सकें और प्रापर प्राइस उसको मिल सके। इस सब की व्यवस्था करने के लिए कदम उठाए जाएं। मैं समझता हूं कि इसको अगर हमें पिन-प्वाइंट करना है तो हैंडलूम कारपोरेशन में इस सेक्टर को प्रापर रिप्रेजेंटेशन मिलेगा, क्या इस बात का एक्थोरेंस सरकार इस मौके पर देगी?

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL (Gujarat): Sir, on a point of order. Is it that only the Minister is interested in the handloom industry? There is none from the Treasury Bench.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): The Minister is from the Treasury Bench.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: I do not find any Member on the Treasury benches.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the hon. Member should have some sympathy for his colleagues. All of them are hungry. Sir, there is no dispute between the various sectors and I can assure the hon. Member that nobody will be allowed to have any benefit at the cost of the handloom sector. Perhaps it is not correct on the part of the hon. Member to say that we have, or anybody has, any anti-handloom sector attitude. It is not true.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHAN-DARI: In the last three months it has been so.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is not true. There is no anti-handloom sector attitude. It is a most vital sector in our economy and we must see that it plays its effective role. Various suggestions have been made in the course of the discussion. In fact, it is not a debatable point. Everyone of us agrees on the suggestions which are coming out from the hon. Members as to in what manner we should improve it, regarding marketability regarding supply of inputs, regarding the financial assistance to be given, regarding institutional arrangements to be made. On all these points, there are no two opinions. The moot question...

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHAN-DARI: Yarn ration cards.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The moot question is what should be the modality. I do feel that Mr. Bhandari has given a very good suggestion, that is, whether we can introduce a system like this through which we can ensure the availability of a minimum quantum of yarn to those who are not organised and who are mainly, I should say, in the household sector. I think we should examine the possibilities. Definitely I would like to get that suggestion examined.

In regard to the role of the National Development Corporation for Handlooms which is going to be set up, definitely it will take an overall view and we are looking forward to what effective promotional role they can play so that this sector becomes economically viable. It will not be meant for rendering service only to the organised sector or the co-operative sector. The handloom sector as a whole will get the undivided attention of the Corporation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Mr. Madhavan...

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHAN-DARI: What about representation?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That we will see when it comes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Mr. Madhavan, what is the question you want to put? Only question and nothing more. From your party, Mr. Kulkarni has already spoken.

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN: I wanted to supplement what my hon. friend, Mr. Chathunni Master, has said.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): You can put only a question, if you want.

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN: I refuse to put.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Now. Special Mentions. Mr. Manubhai Patel.

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN: Then you should have told me that I would be asked only to put questions. No. I refuse. What is this?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. R. MORARKA): Yes, Mr. Manubhai Patel.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED UNBECOMING AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE USED AGAINST MAHATMA GANDHI AND SHRI RAVISHANKAR MAHARAJ AT AN ANTI-PROHIBITION RALLY ORGANISED IN BARODA ON JUNE 8, 1980.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL (Gujarat): Sir, I am raising a very serious issue about an incident which took place on the 8th June at Baroda where the platform of the Congress (I) was utilised for organising an anti-prohibition rally. And in that rally derogatory remarks were used against the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and against the oldest constructive worker and a colleague of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel, Shri Ravi Shankar Maharaj, who is 97 years old. Derogatory remarks were used against them, as a result of which the feelings of the people of Gujarat are wounded. Sir, non-political persons from the literary field, from the medical profession, journalists and educationalists, non-party people, requested the Gov-

ernment to allow them to organise a public meeting in order to express resentment against these derogatory remarks, etc. But it was not allowed. Sir, instead of describing whole incident, I will just quote a few relevant portions from a report in the Indian Express of June 9:

"The first spectacular thing to happen in the State after the Solanki Cabinet was sworn in is the voice raised against prohibition at a meeting organised by the Raopura youths inspired by the Congress (I). Dr. Jatin Mody, prominent Congress (I) leader was the main speaker.... The same platform from which Shri Sanat Mehta was felicitated in the morning was utilised. However, Mr. Mehta was not present in the meeting."

"The anti-prohibition rally was followed by a procession of 200 youths who came out with banners against prohibition from Mahakaleswar Temple nearby. The banners read: 'liquor could turn devil into a donor,'—'liquor killed 3,000 a year but water killed 60,000 a year.'"

The most serious and objectionable remark was by an advocate, Mr. Sayed, Secretary of the City Congress (I) who said, "Prohibition was nothing but a mint for the police." "He pleaded that people should organise 'wet protest' by openly drinking and breaking the law". Another advocate, Mr. Vipin Bhatt, said "It was unfortunate that Gandhiji was born in Gujarat and Ravi Shanker Maharaj of Kaira had no other business."

The prominent citizens of Baroda, Mr. Haribhai Desai, who is President of the Premanand Sahitya Sabha, Mr. Kamlashanker Pandya, a veteran educationist and social worker, Mr. Kirit Bhatt, a journalist, Mrs. Sharadaben Shah, president of Mahila Parishad, Mr. Jagdish Shah, Secretary, Sarvodaya Mandal, Dr. Nane who is contributing articles to the Illustrated Weekly of India under the name of Dadil, Mr. Jayant Shastri—these are