

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Concern over crisis in the Handloom Industry

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): The handloom sector, second largest after agriculture in providing employment in the country, is now facing severe crisis. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the Special Mention. *(Interruptions)* It is under the consideration of the Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: The plight of handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh is miserable and suicides have become a regular phenomenon. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Chairman has not permitted. That is what I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: The reason for this is the violation of the Reservation Act of 1985. This Act, which is meant to protect handloom sector from powerloom, is blatantly violated by many powerloom units and they are producing the reserved items, which has resulted in piling of handloom goods. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record; only the Special Mention. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: This leads to serious unemployment and penury that shambles the lives of weavers. The handloom sector suffered not only from the competition from powerlooms, but also from steep hike in the prices of yarn. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *(Interruptions)* Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Compared with 2003 prices, yarn price went up by 97 per cent. Added to that, the artificial scarcity of yarn in the market led to manipulation and exploitation. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: In the earlier days of independence, government had given priority for handloom sector and Budget allocation is also high, but nowadays, the Government is thinking that spending money on handloom sector is waste and giving more importance to powerloom and textile industry. This has led to present crisis. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am aware of it. (*Interruptions*) But the Chairman has not permitted it. (*Interruptions*) The letter was not given to me. It was given to the Chairman. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: In view of this heartrending situation, I urge upon the Government to immediately intervene and come to the rescue of the weaver and ensure strict implementation of the Reservation Act, regular supply of yarn to handloom industry, lower interest credit facilities and applying all welfare schemes, like mediclaim, life insurance, old age pension, Antyodaya to all handloom workers.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has said. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARINI KANTAROY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned. ...(*Interruptions*)...

Need for providing canteen facilities to ex-servicemen of Assam Rifles

श्री हरीश रावत (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, अर्द्ध सैनिक बल असम राइफल्स का देश की सीमाओं की सुरक्षा व आंतरिक व्यवस्था नियंत्रण में भारी योगदान है। ...(*व्यवधान*)... इस बल के सैनिकों ने अपने कर्तव्य पालन और शौर्य का उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन कर अनेकानेक पदक व अलंकरण प्राप्त किए हैं। देश के विभिन्न प्रान्तों में इस बल के सेवानिवृत्त सैनिकों की भारी संख्या है। ...(*व्यवधान*)... इन्हें पूर्व सैनिकों की तर्ज पर केन्द्र व राज्य सरकारों द्वारा अनेक सुविधाएं दी जा रही हैं, मगर इन पूर्व सैनिकों को कैटीन सुविधा प्राप्त नहीं है।

(श्री सभापति पीठासीन हुए)

सेवाकाल में उन्हें यह सुविधा सेना के जवानों की तर्ज पर ही प्राप्त रहती है। वर्षों तक इस सुविधा के आदी हो चुके असम राइफल्स के पूर्व सैनिक सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद अपने आपको इस सुविधा से वंचित पाते हैं। ...(*व्यवधान*)...