

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of closure of several units of Khadi and Village Industries in the country

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH (Assam): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries to the situation arising out of the closure of several units of Khadi and Village Industries in the country..*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Dr. Manmohan Singh..*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record..*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we are walking out in protest.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber)

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already called Dr. Manmohan Singh..*(Interruptions)*...Nothing will go on record..*(Interruptions)*...Let the Minister make her statement..*(Interruptions)*...The whole thing can be taken up later on..*(Interruptions)*... I have already called her..*(Interruptions)*... Nothing can take place now..*(Interruptions)*... Yes..*(Interruptions)*... Afterwards..*(Interruptions)*...After the Calling Attention..*(Interruptions)*... I said, 'after the Calling Attention'..*(Interruptions)*...The other hon. Members have taken your time..*(Interruptions)*...I will permit you..*(Interruptions)*... I cannot interrupt the Calling Attention..*(Interruptions)*...After the Calling Attention..*(Interruptions)*... Let the Minister make her statement..*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): Sir, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory organisation established by an Act of Parliament namely, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956 (No. 61 of 1956). It is, mainly, a service organisation engaged in the promotion and development of Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) in rural areas.

The development programmes of the KVIC are implemented through 30 State/UT KVI Boards which are statutory organisations established under State laws, 5149 institutions registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860, and 30130 Co-operative Societies

The Government is committed to the view that it is necessary to provide respectable employment to people to allow them to lead a life of dignity. And it is because of this reason that the government is paying utmost attention to the employment generation programmes being implemented through the KVIC.

The KVIC is extending financial assistance to its implementing agencies in the form of grants, rebates and subsidies. The major portion of the grants given to the Commission is for disbursement of rebates on retail sales of khadi as well as subsidies on village industries. In the last three years this Government has made a special effort to release additional grants to clear all pending rebate claims. The banks were also motivated to give requisite credit to the Khadi and Village Industries. Against an actual release of Rs. 202 crores to the KVIC under Plan, in the financial year 1999-2000, a sum of Rs. 320 crores has been provided in the current financial year.

On the basis of the recommendations of the high-power committee, constituted under the Chairmanship of former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, the KVIC introduced the Margin Money Scheme for financing viable village industries projects. Since the introduction of the Scheme, a sum of about Rs. 367 crores has been released by the Government for implementation of Rural Employment Generation Programme. Since I have taken over charge of this Ministry, Sir, I have laid special emphasis on the utilization of funds rather than just the mere release of them. It may be seen that the utilization of the advance margin money placed with the banks till the year 1999-2000 was only Rs. 20.09 crores which has now increased in the last so many months to about Rs. 100 crores.

In order to preserve the spirit of Swadeshi and the model of self-reliant growth of KVI Sector, Government is providing huge subsidies and grants to the Khadi Sector. During the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 Rs. 149.09 crores and Rs. 140.69 crores respectively have been paid as khadi rebate which was an all time record. During the current financial year also, adequate funds to the tune of Rs. 129 crores for Khadi rebate have been provided for payment of khadi rebate claims.

In addition to the financial assistance in the form of budgetary resources, the Government has also extended a guarantee to the RBI for extending a line of credit of Rs. 1000 crores through consortium of Nationalised Banks to the KVIC for releasing term loans to Khadi and Village Industries Sector.

I would also like to mention that concerted efforts have been made to root out corruption in khadi rebate. Regular vigilance raids have been conducted in various parts of the country to detect malpractices in the claims of khadi rebates and to make a distinction between genuine and bogus Khadi and Village Industrial Institutions. In many of these cases, the institutions were also found to be non-existent or bogus.

I would like to take this opportunity to further inform the House that as per the directions of the Prime Minister, I am gathering information about the problems of Khadi and Village Industries and Institutions associated with it. I have held zonal meetings of the institutions of the Southern Zone, Northern Zone, Western Zone and Central Zone so as to find out the problems and then the solutions to the problems of the KVi Sector. I assure the House that after holding the last such meeting with khadi institutions in the Eastern and the North-Eastern Zones, a self-contained "Khadi Package" will be announced in which we hope to include the action plan as well as the policy framework for at least the next five years so that there is no uncertainty about the Khadi and Village Industries Programmes.

Hence, Sir, it is clear from all this that the Government is taking all the necessary steps to promote khadi and village industries and there is no proposal to close down any khadi and village industry unit.

श्री राजनाथ सिंह "सूर्य" : सभापति जी, मैं एक शिकायत दर्ज कराना चाहता हूँ। अक्सर यह होता है कि जो स्टेटमेंट दी जाती है वह केवल अंग्रेजी में बांटी जाती है, हिन्दी में नहीं मिलती है। आज भी उसी प्रकार की स्थिति हुई है। हमें हिन्दी में प्राप्त करने का अधिकार है इसलिए हमें हिन्दी में प्राप्त होनी चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम : सर, ...**(व्यवधान)**...हिन्दी में तो होनी ही चाहिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति : अभी हिन्दी ट्रांसलेशन नहीं आया है।

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for the statement that she has made just now. However, she must be aware of the fact that there is a great deal of unrest in the Khadi industry, and, sometime ago, the Khadi Sabha 2000 gave a call for a People's Movement to draw the attention of the Government to the serious problems faced by the Khadi Industry.

It was as early as in November 1998 that a high-power delegation of Khadi workers from all over the country met the hon. Prime Minister. It is the contention of the Khadi workers that no effective steps have been taken by the Government to meet the various demands put forth in that memorandum of November, 1998. I would request the hon. Minister to enlighten us as to what is the state of implementation of the various demands made by the Khadi workers in their memorandum which was submitted to the hon. Prime Minister as early as in November, 1998. Sir, the hon. Minister has tried to paint a picture which is not consistent with the realities on the ground. Only this morning, the hon. Minister replied to a Starred Question relating to small scale industries, and that itself shows that production of khadi, in terms of quantity, is going down year after year, since 1996-97. From the published figures, it is clear that khadi production reached its peak level in 1995-96. Since then the production has been going down. Also, the figures supplied by the hon. Minister with regard to employment show the same picture, that is, of declining production, declining employment, in the Khadi Industry. This is a harsh reality. I request the Government to clarify the position as to what steps they have in mind in order to reverse the situation. As Mahatama Gandhi once said: "Khadi is not merely a piece of cloth; it is a representative of a powerful heart-throb; it is a symbol of our national struggle for freedom; it is a symbol of national self-reliance." Therefore, Sir, the Government have an obligation to come forward with an effective long-term policy for the development of khadi and village industries. The hon. Minister talked about a package. A high-power committee, under the then Prime Minister, devised this package as early as in 1995. I was a member of that Committee. That Committee made several recommendations, one of the recommendations was to create 20 lakh new jobs for young people in the khadi and village industries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what happened to that plan of creating two million fresh jobs for young people in the khadi and village industries. The hon. Minister's statement does not mention anything about that programme. Also, as part of the implementation of the Narasimha Rao Committee's Report, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission took up three national projects : hand-made paper, leather and honey udyog. I would like to know what happened to those national projects which were sought to be implemented at that time in a mission-oriented mode. The hon. Minister did not mention anything about this matter as well. Sir, there is among the khadi workers all over the country a considerable amount of dissatisfaction about the working

of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The khadi workers have been complaining that the Commission needs to be reconstituted; that it must have people who have expert knowledge and commitment to the cause of khadi; and I am told, for a year now, the reconstitution of the Commission has been delayed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the plans of the Government to reconstitute the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The problems that the khadi industry faces in this country are: problems of technological upgradation; problems of marketing support and problems of effective credit support.

Sir, the hon. Minister has talked about term loans. She has also talked about the margin money scheme. I do believe that khadi and village Industries require a more energetic and a more dynamic approach to the credit needs of this vital sector of the economy. For a long time, the banks in our country are implementing a scheme of differential rate of interest. I do believe that any funds which go to the khadi and village industries from the banking sector must be on highly concessional terms, taking into account the economic weakness of these sectors of our economy. I mentioned last time, i.e., on 9th of August, Sir, that when we talk about the development of our economy, the khadi and village industries would continue to play a very important role in the modernisation, expansion and development of our village economy. Under no strategy of development, our large industries or modern small industries can take care of all the backlog of unemployment. In the process of development, whatever our long-term vision might be, we have to create a viable social safety net, and the development of khadi and village industries can play a very important role in creating those viable social safety nets so that the under-privileged sections of our people will not be hurt in the process of social and economic development. Sir, there are a few other questions. After a great delay, the Government has recently announced the rebate for the current year. I submit to the Government that this yearly uncertainty about the rebate for the khadi industry comes in the way of long-term planning of production and marketing of khadi. Therefore, I would like to request the Government that it should announce a medium-term policy for the rebate so that the production and sale of khadi does not suffer year to year because of the uncertainty associated with the rebate process. Sir, the hon. Minister has also referred to certain Plan expenditure. The Narasimha Rao Committee, if I remember correctly, had drawn up a medium-term plan costing about Rs. 5,700 crores, over a certain period of time. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the present intention of the

Government. Sir, I think the time has come when the Government ought to announce, on a long-term basis, the Plan assistance that it proposes to extend to the khadi and village industries in the next five years so that the planning of production, planning of upgradation of technology and other activities in the khadi and village industries can take place on a systematic basis. Sir, we have read in the newspapers that the Government has appointed the Fergusson or Anderson Consulting Group to look at the problems of khadi and village industries. I would like to know what are the recommendations of this Group and what is the Government's reaction with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of this Consulting Group. Sir, this year happens to be the diamond jubilee year of the establishment of the All India Charkha Sangh by Ghandiji 75 years ago. It is only befitting that in this diamond jubilee year of the All India Charkha Sangh, the Government should take the initiative in organising the celebrations. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to tell us as to what she proposes to do in this matter.

Sir, these are some of the issues which are agitating the khadi industry and it is because of a lack of helpful attitude on the part of the Government that the Khadi Sabha 2000 had given a call that from 1st to 7th August, all khadi *bhandars* would remain closed.

Khadi is too important and too emotional a subject, and the whole House, I think, would be of one mind that this country should do all it can for this. It is not merely a question of money but it is also a question of the total dedication and commitment of our country as a whole that this national symbol of our self-reliance should remain alive, that khadi and village industries should grow and thrive and that this is the only way to deal with the problems of chronic underemployment and unemployment in our rural areas.

Thank you.

श्री वेद प्रकाश गोयल (महाराष्ट्र) : आदरणीय सभापति जी, खादी और ग्रामोद्योग का गांधी जी के साथ अटूट रिश्ता है। वास्तव में वही इस कार्यक्रम के जनक हैं। देश की दो-तिहाई जनता गांवों में रहती है जिसकी हालत आज आजादी के 53 साल के बाद भी जैसी की तैसी बनी हुई है, उन्हीं हालात में वह रह रही है। उससे भी अधिक गांधी जी ने फोकस किया था जो 30-35 प्रतिशत गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहते हैं, उनके जीवन का कुछ सुधार हो और उससे भी बढ़ कर के अनुसूचित जाति के भाई जो देश भर में अधिकांश झुग्गी-झोंपड़ियों में या गांवों में रहते हैं, गांव में भी पेरीफरी पर रहते हैं, उनकी ओर गांधी जी ने ध्यान दिया और आजादी की लड़ाई को एक नया मोड़ दिया। उनके सीन पर आने के पहले आजादी की लड़ाई बैरिस्टर्स और प्रोफेसर्स

की चर्चा में आती थी और वहीं से वह लड़ाई लड़ी जा रही थी। उन्होंने उसको धरती के साथ जोड़ा। उन्होंने उसको समाज के उस भाग के साथ जोड़ा जिससे देश चलता है जिसके कारण इस देश की पहचान है। विशाल जनसमूह के साथ जोड़ा और उन्होंने उनको नज़दीक जाकर देखा, उनके बीच में बैठकर देखा और उनके सवाल को उठाया। उनको यह महसूस हुआ कि उनको रोजगार वहीं पर ही मिलेगा और वहीं पर जो उनकी दस्तकारी है, उसको उससे काम मिलना चाहिये, हाथों को काम मिलना चाहिये। इसे पहचान कर के अहसास कर के उन्होंने खादी ग्रामोद्योग का कार्यक्रम देश को दिया। उस समय किसी को यह महसूस नहीं होता था कि इस तरह का कार्यक्रम जिसका कोई प्रचार नहीं है, विशालता नहीं है, अखबारों में नहीं आता, वह कॉलोनियल रूल को हिला सकता है। यह भावना उनके मन में कहां से आई, उन्होंने देश भर का दौरा शुरू किया। आहिस्ता, आहिस्ता हुआ क्या कि आजादी के बाद जो उनके वारिसदार थे, उन्होंने इस प्रोग्राम को कितना सीरियसली लिया। शुरू के 15-20 साल आप छोड़ दीजिये उसके बाद केवल यह एक लिप सिपेथी का प्रोग्राम हो गया। साल में एकाध बार सफेद टोपी पहन ली, खादी पहन ली। गांव में चर्खा है या नहीं, इसकी कोई परवाह नहीं की। चर्खों की संख्या अगर 60 लाख है तो 5 करोड़ कैसे हो, उसकी कोई चिंता नहीं। चर्खों का कोई इम्प्रूवमेंट हो, इसके लिए कुछ नहीं किया। आहिस्ता आहिस्ता हालत यह होती गई कि गांव के लोगों की हालत बद से बदतर होती चली गयी और वे नज़दीक के शहरों में झोंपड़पट्टी में आकर रहने लगे, उनका जीवन वैसा का वैसा रहा, पहले से भी दूभर हो गया। गांधी जी के नाम को एक आइकॉन बना दिया और उनके नाम पर सड़कें बना दी, भवन बना दिये, उनके नाम पर कोई सेमिनार कर लिये, कुछ कार्यक्रम कर लिये, मूर्तियां स्थापित कर दी और उसमें एक समाधान हासिल कर लिया। उनके जो विचार थे, उनको बड़े बड़े ग्रन्थों में बंद कर के अलमारियों में रख दिया, लाइब्रेरी में रख दिया ताकि उसको हवा न लगे, उसका कोई इस्तेमाल न करे। भावुक जनता से और सरकार से पैसा लेकर इस कार्यक्रम में आहिस्ता आहिस्ता भ्रष्टाचार बढ़ता गया जिसका जिज्ञा मंत्री महोदया ने अपने वक्तव्य में आखरी पेज पर किया है।

मैंने यह मालूम करने की कोशिश की कि आखिर अचानक यह खादी का प्रेम अचानक कैसे उमड़ पड़ा। यह सवाल कहां से ट्रिगर हुआ, सवाल निकला कहां से, अचानक क्या हो गया? क्योंकि इस सवाल में भी ऐसा लगता है कि रोल बदल गए हैं। जितने लोगों ने इस सवाल पर इस कालिंग अटेंशन में दस्तखत किए हैं उनमें लगभग आधे लोग तो भारतीय जनता पार्टी के हैं। कांग्रेस वालों के कितने हैं जो गांधी जी के बारे में ... (व्यवधान) ... बात करते हैं

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak on the points raised.

श्री वेद प्रकाश गोयल : हां, प्वाइंट यह है कि यह अरजेंट पब्लिक अटेंशन का इश्यू कैसे बन गया? अचानक कहां से अरजेंट हो गया?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to complete it by 1 o'clock.

श्री वेद प्रकाश गोयल : जो खादी का मिशन था उसकी मैं चर्चा नहीं करता हूं। सबको ज्ञात है। आपने समय कम दिया है। एक हाई पावर कमेटी का जिज्ञा अभी मनमोहन सिंह जी ने भी किया। उस हाई पावर कमेटी ने जो 1993 में बनी, बड़ी लिबरल सिफारिशें की थीं। बहुत पैसा उन्होंने देने का प्रावधान किया था। लेकिन वास्तव में दिया कितना? बिल्कुल मीगर अमाउंट दिया और वह न देने के कारण उसकी हालत ऐसी होती गयी कि न मारकेटबुल प्रोडक्ट बन सके और

न मारकेट में कोई उनको खरीदने वाला रहा। इस हाई पावर कमेटी ने एक टारगेट तय किया था कि आठवें फाइव इयर प्लान में 5,600 करोड़ रुपये इस प्रोग्राम के लिए दिए जाएंगे। एक्चुअली कितने दिए गए? 20 परसेंट, One-fifth of the amount that was recommended by the High powered Committee headed by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission। प्रणब मुखर्जी एज डिप्टी चैयरमैन आफ द प्लानिंग कमीशन उसके इंचार्ज थे। आज भी केवीआईसी उसके लिए स्ट्रगल कर रही है। जॉब्स के बारे में भी ऐसे ही हुआ। उस समय दो मिलियन जॉब्स आठवीं योजना तक आएंगे यह कहा गया। अभी तक यह जो केवीआईसी है उन जॉब्स को दूढ़ रही है, उनको निकालने की कोशिश कर रही है। नाइन्थ फाइव इयर प्लान में भी ये पूरे हो जाएंगे इसकी भी कोई उम्मीद नहीं दिखती है। यह भी संवाल हुआ कि मारकेटिंग के जो आउटलेट्स हैं ये बंद हो जाएंगे। जून में उसमें एक श्रेट दिया गया कि ये बंद हो जाएंगे। फिर एक प्रोग्राम बनाया गया कि पहली अगस्त से 9 अगस्त तक एक एजीटेशन होगा और ये हजारों जो आउटलेट्स हैं इनको बंद कर दिया जाएगा क्योंकि वहां स्टॉक भरे हुए हैं। स्टॉक भरे होने के कारण प्रोडक्शन कम हो गयी है। उसके बाद मैं समझता हूं कि जो मैनेजमेंट है उसने लोगों के सामने, अपने कर्मचारियों के सामने रखा कि उन्होंने दो साल में क्या-क्या मारकेटिंग के लिए स्टेप्स लिए हैं। मैं उन दो-चार स्टेप्स का जिक्र करना चाहता हूं जिनके कारण समाधान न होने से जो एजीटेडर्स थे उन्होंने 5 अगस्त को यह अपना जो कार्यक्रम था इसको बंद कर दिया। मैं समझता हूं कि सरकार ने जो कदम लेने चालू किए हैं अगर उनको प्रोत्साहन मिला, उनको अधिक फंड मिला, जिसका जिक्र मंत्री जी ने किया है तो मैं समझता हूं कि दुबारा यह स्थिति नहीं आएगी कि मारकेटिंग न होने के कारण उन आउटलेट को बंद किया जाए। पोलिटिकल एजीटेशन के रूप में किया जाए तो यह एक अलग बात है। बहुत से कदम उठाए गए हैं जिनका जिक्र कई पेजेज में है। लेकिन मैं केवल उनका संकेत मात्र दो तीन मिनट में करना चाहता हूं।

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, is it that from now on you are to follow this format for Calling Attention Motions. There was some discussion and you had decided on the general format to be followed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already told him.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: I am just drawing your attention.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already drawn the attention on this issue.

SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Sir, what I am saying is, why has this Calling Attention Motion come up when the purpose of it has been lost.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, I am not casting any aspersions on the Member. I am drawing your attention to the kind of format which has to be followed.

SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Even though the agitation has been called off, what I am pointing out is that there was no logic for the agitation. No outlet was closed. - My point is, to what is the relevance of the Calling Attention Motion. And since the question has been raised, some points have to be put before the Hon. House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put the question.

SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: I am putting. What steps the Government proposes to take so that such a situation doesn't arise again? Number two; the new consultants are again in the news. They have divorced from each other. With the change that has taken place in their consultancy company internationally, what will be its effect on our assignment? The company that was given the assignment was not a consultancy company, but an accounting company. I would like to know from the Minister as to when she will place the report on the Table of the House for a discussion. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ram Deo Bhandari. Not here. Mr. Sanjay Nirupam.

श्री संजय निरुपम (महाराष्ट्र) : सभापति महोदय, खादी ग्रामोद्योग की वर्तमान दशा पर डॉ. मनमोहन सिंह जी ने जो ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव रखा है उस प्रस्ताव पर मेरे मन में भी कुछ प्रश्न हैं। मैं माननीया मंत्री महोदया का ध्यान आकर्षित करते हुए उन प्रश्नों को सदन के समक्ष रखना चाहता हूँ।

गांधी जी के विचारों से उपजा खादी ग्रामोद्योग, खादी, उन्होंने स्वदेशी और स्वावलंबन की जो भावना या जो विचार रखा था, उसको सिंबोलाइज करने वाला यह विचार था, यह विषय था खादी। लेकिन पिछले 54 वर्षों के बाद आज माननीया मंत्री महोदया को अपने बयान के दरम्यान यह कहना पड़ रहा है कि खादी सेक्टर को बचाने के लिए, संभालने के लिए रिबेट और सबसिडी की पर्याप्त व्यवस्था हो रही है, जो कि आगे भी जारी रहेगी। इस तरह का वचन दिया जा रहा है। आज मॉर्केटिंग का जो जमाना है, मुझे नहीं लगता कि उस जमाने में बहुत ज्यादा सबसिडी के आधार पर और बहुत ज्यादा रिबेट के आधार पर सर्वाइव किया जा सकता है। लिज्जत पापड़ का मैं एक उदाहरण रखना चाहूँगा। यह बाकायदा खादी ग्रामोद्योग से जुड़ी हुई महिलाओं का एक प्रयास है और महिला उद्यमियों की तरफ से एक चमत्कार है। उनकी जो मॉर्केटिंग है वह भी एक स्तरीय मॉर्केटिंग है। उन्होंने जो प्रोडक्ट दिया, जो उत्पादन दिया, जो माल दिया वह भी बहुत ही कंपीटीटिव रहा। जिस तरह से लिज्जत पापड़ ने एक चमत्कार किया उस तरह का चमत्कार पिछले 54 वर्षों के बाद आज खादी की तरफ से नहीं दिख रहा है। खादी के जो प्रोडक्ट हैं वे या तो ऐसे हैं जो बाज़ार में कंपीट नहीं कर रहे हैं, या ऐसे हैं कि उनके खरीदार नहीं हैं या फिर ऐसे हैं कि वे इतने महंगे हैं कि खरीदने की इच्छा होते हुए भी लोग उन्हें खरीद नहीं पा रहे हैं। तो कहीं न कहीं खादी को आत्म-निर्भर बनाने की दिशा में एक कंक्रीट, एक ठोस प्रयास करना पड़ेगा और ऐसा ठोस प्रयास अभी मुझे दिख नहीं रहा है। उसके पीछे जो बहुत सारे कारण हैं उनमें से एक कारण की तरफ मंत्री महोदया ने ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। उन्होंने बताया है कि बहुत सारी ऐसी खादी संस्थाएँ हैं जो सालों से काम कर रही हैं। उन खादी संस्थाओं या पूरे खादी उद्योग पर कुछ गिने-चुने लोगों का कंट्रोल है, कब्ज़ा है, वर्चस्व है। उनके अपने ही सारे हिसाब-किताब हैं। बहुत सारे खादी विभाग से जुड़े हुए जो अधिकारी रिटायर हो गए उनकी संस्थाएँ आज भी चल रही हैं। उनकी संस्थाएँ हैं। पूरी जो रिबेट है, जो सबसिडी है, उसका

फायदा गिने-चुने लोग ही उठा रहे हैं। इस दिशा में मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि रेड्ज भी डाली जा रही हैं और मॉल प्रैक्टिसेस डिटेक्ट करने के प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं। सबसे पहले मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि ऐसी जो बोगस संस्थाओं की जानकारी मिली है वे कौन-कौन सी संस्थाएं हैं? उनको आप नेम कर सकती हैं और उनके बारे में विस्तार से बता सकती हैं। उन संस्थाओं ने रिबेट के नाम पर कितना पैसा लिया है और कितने सरकारी पैसे का दुरुपयोग किया है, यह आप अगर बताना चाहें तो अवश्य बताएं। मैं महाराष्ट्र की एक संस्था के बारे में बताना चाहूंगा। उस संस्था को बाकायदा प्रोजेक्ट दिया गया। बाकायदा वह प्रोजेक्ट एप्रूव हुआ। लेकिन पिछले पांच वर्ष से वह संस्था फंड के लिए घूम रही है।

ऐसा नहीं कि महाराष्ट्र की खादी संस्थाओं को फंड नहीं मिल रहे हैं, मिल रहे हैं, लेकिन वे गिनी-चुनी संस्थाओं को, जिन लोगों के अपने प्रभाव हैं या अपना एक कंट्रोल है - उन लोगों की संस्थाओं को मिल रहे हैं। महोदय, मेरे पास जो निवेदन आए हैं, उन में गिरोह शब्द का प्रयोग किया है, लोगों के बारे में जो जानकारियां दी गयी हैं, उसमें ऐसी-ऐसी जानकारियां दी गयी हैं जिन्हें मे सदन में पढ़ नहीं सकता। मैं वह सारी बातें यहां नहीं रख रहा हूं और सिर्फ इतना बताना चाहता हूं कि ऐसी कई संस्थाएं हैं जिनकी अच्छी परियोजनाएं पास हो गई हैं, लेकिन उन्हें फंड नहीं मिल रहा है। महोदय, मैंने इस संबंध में महाराष्ट्र खादी एवं ग्रामोद्योग बोर्ड के सबसे बड़े अधिकारी को भी फोन किया कि जब इनकी परियोजनाएं आप ने पास कर दी हैं तो इन्हें पांच-पांच सालों से पैसे क्यों नहीं दे रहे हैं? उन्होंने कहा कि आप तो दिल्ली में बैठते हैं, आप केन्द्रीय वित्त मंत्री जी से मेरा फंड एप्रूव करा दीजिए, मैं उसमें से इन्हें फंड दे दूंगा। मैंने उनसे यह भी पूछा कि आप के पास पिछले पांच सालों में कितने पैसे आए? उनके पास बाकायदा फिगर्स हैं कि इतने फंड आए हैं, लेकिन वह फंड सलेक्टेड लोगों के पास जा रहे हैं।

महोदय, खादी ग्रामोद्योग का उद्देश्य यह रहा है कि ग्रामीण लोगों को ज्यादा-से-ज्यादा रोजगार दिया जाए। लेकिन आज ग्रामीण लोगों को उतनी बड़ी संख्या में रोजगार नहीं मिल पा रहा है, एक सलेक्टेड ग्रुप इसका उपयोग कर रहा है। महोदय, आज ही एक स्टार्ड क्युश्चन था और उसका जवाब देते हुए मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि खादी सेक्टर में रोजगार कम हो रहा है। जहां करीब 14 लाख 79 हजार लोगों को रोजगार मिलता था, वह घटकर 13 लाख 85 हजार लोगों को मिला है। यह संख्या लगातार घट रही है। इसलिए अगर ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में खादी ग्रामोद्योग के माध्यम से रोजगार बढ़ाने की दिशा में हमें काम करना है तो जो बोगस संस्थाएं हैं, जो सलेक्टेड लोगों का खादी के कारोबार पर वर्चस्व है, उसे हटाना पड़ेगा, तोड़ना पड़ेगा। उसी तरह से खादी का उत्पादन भी आज लगातार घटता चला जा रहा है और यह अपने आप में चिंताजनक बात है। अगर खादी का उत्पादन गूं ही घटता चला जाएगा तो आप खाली सब्सिडी और रिबेट के आधार पर कब तक इस उद्योग को जिंदा रख पाएंगे? इसलिए खादी का उत्पादन बढ़ाने की दिशा में विशेष प्रयास होने चाहिए और जब विशेष प्रयास करने हैं तो नई संस्थाओं को आप को मौका देना पड़ेगा, नई-नई संस्थाओं को आमंत्रित करना पड़ेगा। आपको बगैर किसी भेदभाव के इस दिशा में प्रयास करने चाहिए, ऐसा मेरा मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन है और मैंने जो सुझाव दिए हैं, उन पर मैं मंत्री महोदय का रिस्पांस भी चाहूंगा। धन्यवाद।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gavai. Not there. Mr. Margabandu.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU (Tamil Nadu): I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity. Khadi and handloom are the second largest

sector, after agriculture, in India. In this sector, nearly 65 lakhs of persons are engaged in producing material. But, unfortunately, they are not able to compete with the powerloom and other sectors. It is unfortunate that only 11 textiles have been exclusively allotted for production by handloom. For Khadi, for 1999-2000, nearly Rs.132 crores have been allotted by the Government. But, unfortunately, the banks are not coming forward to spend that amount. Only Rs.40 crores were spent and the remaining amount is still there unspent. I would like to know whether the Government is aware of this lethargy on the part of banks to extend the credit of margin money to the village industries. Is the Government going to take steps to implement the scheme and make them spend this money for the persons who are in need? In Tamil Nadu, Mr. Chairman, there is a scheme for free supply of 'saris' and 'dhotis' to the old people who have no provider and to those who are living below the poverty line. The Government itself supplies. The Government procures 'saris' and 'dhotis' and gives them to those people. Our late leader, Dr. Annadurai, considering the plight of the manufacturers of Khadi and handloom, took up their cause and he himself had shouldered the responsibility of selling those goods, to augment the fund for the producers. I would like to know whether the Government is going to take such steps to see that all the goods that have been manufactured are procured by the Government itself and distributed to the persons who are in need and whether it would give the manufacturing cost plus a marginal profit to those persons who are engaged in this sector. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Bratin Sengupta.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA (West Bengal): Hon. Chairman, Sir, from the Statement and from the state of figures - some of which have been given in the Statement - it appears that the khadi gramodyog sector has not suffered any reduction in its size; it has not been practised. I think there has been no downsizing. It might appear so, but the basic question regarding the khadi and village industries is not whether it has been reduced or not. The basic question, here, is, the Government, year after year, has failed to provide any kind of protection for promotion of khadi and village industries. When there has been a worldwide increase in the demand for these products - from papers to food items, natural foods, handicrafts, clothes and fashion garments ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question? Please put your question.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: I am putting it, Sir. There has been a new concern developed amongst the people regarding pollution-free foods, natural foods, environment friendly clothes etc. There was a big scope for the development of khadi and village industries in our country. The khadi and village industries failed in capturing the growing market of various products because the Government had failed to promote these industries, in particular. Instead, the expanding market of handicrafts etc. has been captured by the multinationals, by other private and commercial industries because they have the aggressive marketing strategy; they have many other advertising avenues, and also the capital, the largest, through which they have made an aggressive marketing and penetrated into a market or captured the new market of clothes, garments, food items etc., which, otherwise, if given a protection for promotion by the Government, could have been captured by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. That is where the weakness of the Government is, and that is where the weakness of Khadi and Village Industries Commission is. It could have attained a much higher position today; the market of its products could have been much higher. Various items like natural foods, handicrafts and all other village industries could have been produced by the KVIC in a greater number by now. Had the Government adequately given the safeguards and protection for promotion of these industries over the years, the multinationals could not have been able to come. The Government must have known the logic. These multinationals, who, through their aggressive marketing, are coming and encroaching upon the khadi and village industries' market, are also being ousted by a movement for ecological food, natural food, ecological clothes, environment- friendly and pollution-free clothes in their own country. Because of the promotion of their indigenous industries in their own country, these multinationals are no longer in a position to promote the market over there. That is why, they are in a rush to capture a new market like India. In fact, there has been an expansion in the market of clothes, garments and whatever items I have mentioned earlier, in India. The Government did not provide the protection, safeguards and security to the khadi industries, which was a dream of Gandhiji, which was a product of our freedom struggle, which is the largest employment generating industry in our country, which has got the best eco-friendly products in our country. In the absence of adequate Government protection, promotion, safeguards and additional budget, this additional

market which has been created in the country, could not be captured by the khadi industries. Here lies the weakness of the Government. Here lies the weakness of the industries. It is only because of the failure of the Government. Will the Government look into it? Khadi has essentially survived basically, amongst other things, on the subsidy being provided by the Government, which was delivered to the masses through an annual rebate. This rebate has been withdrawn by the Government. But now, again, the question here is to reintroduce the rebate. On the face of aggressive marketing strategy of the multinationals, the rebate on khadi should be increased. It should not have been withdrawn earlier, but, it should have been increased. It should not be given only during the festivals, whenever they are celebrated. The scheme for rebate should have been an annual one, rather than an occasional one.

This initiative was absent from the Government side. I know, Sir,-- the statistics also reveal that from 1955-56 till last year there has been a three hundred times expansion in the number of khadi cooperatives, boards and other registered bodies.

As has been pointed out repeatedly on the floor of the House, there has been large-scale corruption and it has suffered from inaction on the part of the Government. The workers have not been insured against the different kinds of onslaughts by different industries. That is why the khadi and village industries could not be competitive with other aggressive ones. Because of lack of competitiveness, a situation of slackness and sickness has developed gradually. Had the Government been able to resist that, the khadi and village industries could have been promoted to a large extent. I repeat that when it was taken up by Gandhiji and our freedom fighters, the aim was to promote the largest employment-generating industry of our country. The aim was to provide to the masses of our country the cheapest and the best natural and eco-friendly products from cloth to fashion garments, etc. All these things could not take place because of lack of initiatives on the part of Government after Government. The misplaced priorities of the Government have always given incentives and favours to the products of multinationals, to imported products from other countries, which could have been very well produced by the khadi and village industries of our country. That is why the Government should, at this point of time, give adequate attention to it. It should encourage the workers by providing annual rebate programmes. We should try to fight back so that the ever-expanding market can be captured by the khadi and

village industries. They are capable of doing that. The Government is releasing funds. There is a package. That is all right. But the bank guarantees which are required for the promotion of these industries are not there. The seed money of Rs.2,000 crores, which is required to utilise the Rs.10,000 crore-package that the Government is announcing, is not available to these industries. The banks generally do not provide any kind of security, any kind of guarantee, to small-scale industries at the grass-roots level. All these Government initiatives are necessary. They are not there. Simply providing money and having a package will not solve the problem. That is why I urge the Minister to take remedial measures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramachandraiah. We should finish the whole thing by 1 o'clock. Otherwise, we will have to continue during the lunch hour.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you, Sir. The last speaker will always be at a disadvantage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not the last speaker. There are five more speakers.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to certain aspects of this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only questions should be asked so that the Minister can reply. The Minister has to reply.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, it is needless to mention about the tremendous potentialities of this sector and the need to encourage and revitalise this sector. But one aspect has to be taken into consideration. This is a sector where corruption is rampant. From our practical experience, we have been observing that certain units, which have drawn amounts, are not at all existing. They are existing only on letterheads. The Minister has to evolve a foolproof system so that the units are made more accountable for the utilisation of the funds. We should ensure that the funds which are released are utilised for reviving the units and that they produce goods which generate income. I request the Government to instruct the State Governments to constitute task force committees for the revival of the sick units. Promotion of new industries is one aspect. But more than 80 per cent of the units are in doldrums. It may be due to lack of proper marketing facilities or due to inadequate working capital. In this connection, I would like to mention that the banks are totally unwilling to finance the

units of the KVIC. The panic-stricken banking industry today is totally unwilling to give loans thanks to the projects like *rin melas*, loan melas, etc., which had been evolved without ascertaining the viability of the projects, of the earlier Governments, which have demolished the banking industry.

The banking industry has to be geared up. A sense of commitment and confidence has to be inculcated in them. Now the margin money is being released. If the banks do not release the working capital, there is no use of releasing the margin money. Whatever money is released, that will go waste or it will be diverted. I would like to make some suggestions. These units have to be made an appendage to the big units. After globalisation, the products that are made by the village industry are unable to compete with the products that are manufactured by the big industries. Naturally, the quality has to be improved. These units have to be linked with the big units so that market is assured. There is need for bringing about coordination between the KVIC and other rural development organisations in the States. Since there is a lack of coordination, these units are not running properly. Sir, the KVIC is a regulatory body. It is a supervisory body. Does it require 5,000 employees? Why don't you downsize it? I don't think you require 5,000 employees to run this organisation. This aspect also should be taken note of. Then a lot of MNCs are making forays into this sector. The products that are manufactured by the village industry are unable to compete with the products that are manufactured by the big industries. What is the thinking of the Government in this regard?

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) in the Chair]

How can we make these units marketable? We need this industry because it has vast potential for employment. We badly need it. But how can we make this industry viable? Sir, they have appointed a High Power Committee. They had promised to create two million jobs in five years. But this target could not be achieved. Now they have requisitioned the services of the Artherson Committee. What I am trying to say is, it is not that easy to make this industry viable. In the changed economic scenario, making the small industry...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Kindly put your pointed questions and conclude.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: I am posing questions. Every time, they appoint a Committee. Whether it is a high power committee or a low

1.00 P.M.

power committee or whatever committee, they make their recommendations and create a lot of hopes in the minds of the people. But nothing is achieved. Then tomorrow also they would make the same promise. The other day, I read in the newspaper that the Prime Minister would make a statement on the 30th regarding KVIC and other small industries. Let us adopt a pragmatic approach. How are we going to make the KVIC more viable in the changed economic scenario? With all the ills that are being faced, I hope the spirit of the Ministry will not be dampened. The hon. Minister is committed to do something for KVIC. But let her spirit not dampen with all the ills that are being faced. Thank you

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, हमारे देश में कोई अभाग ही होगा जो खादी और ग्रामोद्योग के हमारे स्वतंत्रता के आंदोलन में जो उसका योगदान रहा उसको भुलाएगा। जबरदस्त योगदान हमारे स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन में इन संस्थाओं के जरिए से और इस कार्य के जरिए से हमें प्राप्त हुआ और देश को आजादी मिली।

महोदय, स्वावलम्बन भी अपना एक अलग दर्शन है और खादी और ग्रामोद्योग का जो काम है और जो उसके पीछे कल्पना है वह एक अलग जीवन-दर्शन है, वह मानवता के लिए तो जरूरी है ही लेकिन अगर हम इस पक्ष को भी छोड़ दें और केवल व्यावहारिक दृष्टि से भी देखें तो हमारे देश में जहां 35 फीसदी लोग गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहते हों, जहां करोड़ों लोग बेरोजगार हों, जहां नये रोजगार सृजित न हो रहे हों, वहां पर आज भी इसकी अहमियत को भुलाया नहीं जा सकता है। मुझे अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो तस्वीर पेश की है वह हकीकत नहीं दर्शाती है। आज खादी और ग्रामोद्योग की स्थिति यह है कि पिछले लगातार दो-तीन वर्षों से हमारे खादी और ग्रामोद्योग में पांच लाख लोगों का रोजगार छूट गया है, 750 करोड़ रुपये का और स्टॉक खादी संस्थाओं के पास जमा हो गया है, उनके पास कार्यकारी पूंजी नहीं रह गई है जिससे काम को आगे बढ़ाया जा सके। इस ओर माननीय मंत्री ने कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया है और न अपने बयान में इसके बारे में कोई जिक्र किया है। यह सब सरकार की दुलमुल नीति के कारण हुआ है।

महोदय, मैं सरकार से कहना चाहता हूं कि स्वतंत्रता के बाद, देश की आजादी के बाद हमारे देश के राजनीतिज्ञों ने, मनीषियों ने और आर्थिक पहलुओं को समझने वालों ने जो नीति बनाई थी कि हम खादी और ग्रामोद्योग को बढ़ाएंगे, उसमें चार बातों का विशेष ध्यान रखा गया था, उन्हें चाहे चार सिद्धांत कह लीजिए यह निर्धारित किए गए थे। एक यह कि खादी और ग्रामोद्योग की संस्थाओं को बिना ब्याज के पूंजी मिलेगी। दूसरा, यह कि जब तक यह पूंजी काम में लगी रहेगी, वापस नहीं ली जायेगी। तीसरा, यह कि मिल की तुलना में इसके भाव, इसके दान चूंकि अधिक रहेंगे इसलिए इस पर रिबेट बराबर दिया जाता रहेगा और मिल के बने हुए कपड़ों पर सेस लगाया जायेगा, उपकर लगाया जायेगा। चौथी, बात यह कि चरखा संघ के जरिए से इस काम को चलाया जाएगा और उसके बाद सर्टिफिकेशन कमेटी बनी और फिर बोर्ड बना और फिर 1956 में खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग बना। मैं सरकार से कहना चाहता हूं कि इन चार कसौटियों

पर अपने काम को वह देख ले। अगर इन चार बिंदुओं के आधार पर इसको देखेंगे तो निश्चित रूप से सरकार की जो दुर्लभ और गलत नीतियां रही हैं, वे आज इस स्थिति के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं। जैसा मैंने निवेदन किया कि आज भी हमारे देश में व्यवहारिक बात है कि जब तक हम इस विलेज इंडस्ट्री को, खादी के काम को आगे नहीं बढ़ाएंगे तब तक हम अपने बेसहारा और बेरोजगार लोगों को काम नहीं दे पाएंगे। एक बात सरकार को यह माननी चाहिए कि जो सिद्धांत खादी और ग्रामोद्योग का है वह यह है कि यह बिना मुनाफा कमाने वाली संस्था है। यह मुनाफा नहीं कमाती है, यह बिना लाभ-हानि के आधार पर काम को चलाती है। लोगों को रोजगार देना है इसलिए यह काम को चलाती है।

महोदय, शुरू में आयोग के जरिए से खादी संस्थाओं को सीधे पैसा दिया जाता था और संस्थाएं उस कार्यकारी पूंजी से अपने काम को बढ़ाती थीं। अनेक वर्षों तक बहुत तेजी के साथ काम आगे बढ़ा, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है और हमारे बेसहारा और बेरोजगार लोगों को काम मिला। लेकिन उसके बाद फिर एक दूसरी नीति बनाई गई कि इंटरेस्ट एलिजिबिलिटी सर्टीफिकेट जारी करके बैंकों से ऋण दिलाया गया। चलिए वह भी ठीक था। उस हिसाब से उनको ऋण मिलता गया, लेकिन अब बैंकों ने पता नहीं किस आधार पर उस नीति को बदल दिया। फिर माननीय मंत्री जी ने भी जिफ्र किया है कि कंसोर्टियम बैंक क्रेडिट के जरिए से भी उनको ऋण दिया जाता है। ठीक है, वह भी माना जाएगा। लेकिन प्रश्न यह है कि वे उसको टर्न लोन मानते हैं, उसको वे वर्किंग फंड नहीं मानते और उसका दस प्रतिशत प्रति वर्ष ब्याज सहित वसूल करना चाहते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में जो संस्थाएं अपने काम को केवल बिना लाभ और बिना हानि के चलाती हैं, उनके पास फंड परफॉरमेंस का सवाल कहाँ से आएगा? सरकार की नीति के तहत जो बैंक आज उनको डील कर रहे हैं, वे उनको उत्पादन और बिक्री के आधार पर लोन स्वीकृत कर रहे हैं, जिस प्रकार से वे अन्य उद्योगों को करते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में खादी और ग्रामोद्योग का काम नहीं बढ़ पाएगा, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है। श्रीमान्, इस स्थिति में मैं सरकार से कहना चाहूंगा कि क्या सरकार इस बात पर राजी है या इस संबंध में सारी बातों को सोचते हुए, उनकी स्थिति को देखते हुए क्या सरकार इंटरेस्ट एलिजिबिलिटी सर्टीफिकेट के जरिए से जो ऋण दिया जाता है, उस प्रथा को चालू करेगी और यह सुनिश्चित करेगी कि जितना सर्टीफिकेट हो, उस आधार पर बैंक उनको पैसा दें क्योंकि ग्रामोद्योग आयोग के जरिए सर्टीफिकेट तब जारी किया जाता है जब संस्था उसकी पूरी जांच कर लेती है। दूसरा, क्या सरकार रिबेट की नीति बनाएगी? रिबेट की नीति बहुत खराब है। इस संबंध में 1999-2000 का एक उदाहरण मैं देना चाहता हूँ कि जुलाई और दिसंबर से इन्होंने रिबेट की घोषणा की कि रिबेट मिलेगा और उसके बाद घोषणा की कि जनवरी से मार्च तक मिलेगा। उसमें एक घोषणा यह की गयी कि निश्चित कीमत से ज्यादा की जो चीज़ होगी, उस पर रिबेट नहीं दिया जाएगा। उसके बाद यह फैसला हुआ कि उन पर भी रिबेट मिलेगा। नतीजा यह हुआ कि तीस-चालीस प्रतिशत खादी की बिक्री घट गयी और 5 लाख लोगों का रोजगार छिन गया। इसके अतिरिक्त 750 करोड़ रुपये का ओवर स्टॉक उनके पास जमा हो गया। इसलिए क्या सरकार रिबेट की नीति को पूरे तरीके से सुनिश्चित करेगी? एक तो कई वर्षों के लिए रिबेट की नीति बने। रिबेट उनको देना पड़ेगा, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है। शुरू में सरकार ने स्वतंत्रता के बाद ही जो बातें तय की थी, उनमें निश्चित किया था कि रिबेट दिया जाएगा क्योंकि मिलों के मुकाबले इनकी कीमतें ज्यादा होंगी और सैस भी लगाया जाएगा, इसलिए सरकार ने यह फैसला किया था। क्या सरकार उस संबंध में बात करेगी? आज जो स्थिति हो गयी है, यह यह हो गयी है कि प्रथम पंचवर्षीय योजना में जो हमारा पब्लिक सैक्टर में आउट ले था, उसके मुकाबले में ग्रामोद्योग और

खादी का 1.8 प्रतिशत था। आज वह .25 प्रतिशत रह गया है। तो इस तरह से कैसे काम बढ़ेगा? किस प्रकार से हमारे लोगों को रोजगार मिलेगा? मैं सरकार से कहना चाहता हूँ कि एक तो आउट ले बढ़ाए। पब्लिक सेक्टर के मुकाबले में जो खादी और ग्रामोद्योग के लिए 1.8 प्रतिशत का आउट ले था, उसी तुलना में इसको किया जाए, यह जो .25 प्रतिशत रह गया है, इसको बढ़ाया जाए। 1997-98 के बाद से जो सरकार के ऊपर रिबेट बकाया है, जो रिबेट दिया गया है और सरकार ने जिसका भुगतान नहीं किया, वह 70-75 करोड़ रुपये है और लगभग इतना ही राज्य सरकारों का है। इस प्रकार डेढ़ सौ करोड़ रुपया तो वह है जो सरकार ने घोषित किया लेकिन वह उनको नहीं मिला। ऐसी स्थिति में खादी और ग्रामोद्योग की उन्नति कैसे होगी? बेसहारा लोगों को, बेरोजगार लोगों को रोजगार कैसे मिलेगा? इसलिए मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि सरकार रिबेट की निश्चित नीति तय करे और वह साल भर तक चलाए। वैसे तो पहले यह साल भर तक रहती ही रही है कि विशेष छूट कुछ महीनों के लिए और साल भर तक कुछ प्रतिशत छूट रहती है। लेकिन उस संबंध में एक स्पष्ट नीति होनी चाहिए ताकि संस्थाओं को ज्ञात रहे कि उनको इस हिसाब से काम करना है। इसके अतिरिक्त ऋण के संबंध में मैंने शुरू में ही निवेदन किया कि या तो पहली ही व्यवस्था कर दें कि आयोग के जरिए से जो सीधे पहले उनको कार्यकारी पूंजी मिलती थी, वही व्यवस्था रहे या इंटरस्ट ऐलीजिबिलिटी वाली जो व्यवस्था है, उसको चालू करें लेकिन कंसोशियम बैंक ऑफ क्रेडिट के हिसाब से जो ऋण उनको दिया जा रहा है, उसको टर्म लोन न मानकर उनका फंड मानना चाहिए ताकि वे अपनी कार्यकारी पूंजी का उसमें इस्तेमाल करते रहें। इसके अतिरिक्त 10 परसेंट के हिसाब से जो वसूली की बात है, उसको खत्म कर देना चाहिए। महोदय, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि खादी प्रणाली की जो संकल्पना है, वह पूंजीवाद और साम्राज्यवाद के विरोध में शुरू हुई और हमारे स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन से जुड़ी। हमें इस पर गर्व होना चाहिए और इस काम को हमें इस पक्ष से तो लेना ही चाहिए - उसको जीवन दर्शन के रूप में ले या न ले लेकिन व्यावहारिक रूप से जो आज हमारी स्थिति है, हमारे देश के रोजगार की स्थिति है और गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहने वालों की जो स्थिति है, उसको देखते हुए इस काम को आगे बढ़ाते रहना चाहिए। यही मेरा निवेदन है। धन्यवाद।

श्रीमती कुमकुम राय (बिहार): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, खादी कभी पराधीन भारत में स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन का पर्यायवाची हुआ करती थी जो आज़ादी के 53वें वर्ष में स्वदेशी और स्वराज का राग अलापने वाली भारतीय जनता पार्टी के नेतृत्व में गठित केन्द्र सरकार की गलत नीतियों के कारण अपनी पहचान खोती जा रही है। महोदय, भारत की 74.3 प्रतिशत जनसंख्या आज भी गांवों में निवास करती है और कार्मिक शक्ति अधिकतर बेरोजगारी का दंश भुगत रही है। इन परिस्थितियों में खादी ग्रामोद्योग रेगिस्तान में नखलिस्तान के समान साबित हो सकता है। शायद इसीलिए केन्द्र सरकार ने खादी ग्रामोद्योग आयोग के पुनर्गठन के लिए विदेशी कंपनी "आर्थर एंडरसन" की नियुक्ति की है जो एक बहुराष्ट्रीय सलाहकार एजेंसी है। इस एजेंसी को छः माह के भीतर रिपोर्ट सौंपने को कहा गया है। स्थिति यह है कि आयोग को हर साल दी जाने वाली वित्तीय मदद में सरकार धीरे-धीरे कटौती करती जा रही है और के.वी.आई.सी. को अपने ब्यूते खड़ा करने की परिस्थिति पैदा करती जा रही है ताकि गुणवत्ता में सुधार के साथ-साथ खादी के उत्पादों की बाज़ार में मांग बढ़े। इसके लिए सरकार ने टाटा इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ सोशल साइंसेज को बाज़ार में खादी उत्पादों की पैठ बढ़ाने के उपाय सुझाने को कहा है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सवाल यह है कि क्या खादी ग्रामोद्योग कोई बैंक है जो एक विदेशी कंपनी को ठेका दे दिया गया? इससे बेहतर काम तो खादी जगत के विशेषज्ञ कम खर्च में कर सकते थे। दो प्रश्न उठते हैं कि "आर्थर एंडरसन" की रपट आने तक क्या खादी ग्रामोद्योग आयोग का पुनर्गठन रुका रहेगा? दूसरा प्रश्न खादी संस्थाओं पर विदेशी पूंजी के प्रकोप से जुड़ा है। अगर मंत्री महोदय ने खादी ग्रामोद्योग आयोग पर बनी उच्चाधिकार समिति की रिपोर्ट सरसरी तौर पर देख ली होती तो उन्हें "आर्थर एंडरसन" की शरण में जाने की जरूरत ही नहीं पड़ती।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, उदारीकरण के लिए हर तरफ दरवाजे खोलने के बावजूद पी.वी.नरसिंह राव की सरकार ने इस क्षेत्र को उससे अलग रखा था क्योंकि वास्तव में ग्रामीण इलाके में आमदनी और रोजगार के सृजन में खादी ग्रामोद्योग का महत्वपूर्ण योगदान हो सकता है। कम पूंजी और स्थानीय संसाधनों के सहारे समाज के गरीब तबके को रोजगार देने की क्षमता इसमें अनोखी है। राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी का एक प्रसिद्ध वाक्य हर खादी भंडार में लिखा होता है - "खादी वस्त्र नहीं विचार है।" कैसी विडम्बना है कि इस विचार पर पुनर्विचार करने के लिए आज हमारी सरकार को एक विदेशी कंपनी की जरूरत पड़ गई है। मेरे उनसे कुछ प्रश्न हैं। मैं उनसे पूछना चाहूंगी कि हमारे यहां अनेक राज्यों में ग्रामीण इलाकों में कई सरकारी परियोजनाएं चल रही हैं जैसे गरीबी सीमा से नीचे जीवन बसर करने वाली ग्रामीण महिलाओं के स्वनियोजन के क्रम में बैंकों से ऋण दिलवा कर उन्हें कई प्रकार का प्रशिक्षण दिया जाता है। तो क्या यह संभव है कि खादी ग्रामोद्योग से समन्वय करके अंगूरबत्ती, शहद, सत्तू, मसाले, साबुन, सर्फ पापड़, बड़ी आदि के उत्पादन एवं विपणन की व्यवस्था की जाए?

दूसरे, मैं कहना चाहूंगी कि देश के कई राज्यों में युनिसेफ एवं वर्ल्ड बैंक जैसी जो अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संस्थाएं हैं, ये भी अनेक कार्यक्रम चला रही हैं, अनेक प्रोजेक्ट चला रही हैं। उनमें ग्रामीण इलाकों में महिला सशक्तीकरण योजना भी चल रही है और इन योजनाओं में महिलाओं की साक्षरता के साथ-साथ उनके स्वनियोजन की दिशा में भी कई कार्य किए जा रहे हैं। तो क्या यह संभव है कि इन परियोजनाओं में जिनमें अरबों रुपया निवेश किया जा रहा है, हमारी वित्तीय संस्थाएं दे रही हैं, इसमें अस्सी-बीस का जो अनुपात रहता है या 48 परसेंट फॉरेन इंस्टीट्यूशन्स देते हैं, 32 परसेंट केन्द्र सरकार और 16 परसेंट राज्य सरकार देती है, इस प्रकार जहां पर काफी रुपया है, ऐसी स्थिति में इन परियोजनाओं में और हमारे खादी ग्रामोद्योग आयोग से जुड़ी हुई जो तमाम संस्थाएं हैं, इनसे सामंजस्य स्थापित करके दोनों तरफ यानि हमारे ग्रामीण इलाकों में रहने वाली उन तमाम ग्रामीण आबादी जिसमें महिला और पुरुष जो बेरोजगार हैं और स्वनियोजन के लिए इधर-उधर भटक रहे हैं तो क्या ऐसा सामंजस्य बैठा कर इन दोनों को मजबूत किया जा सकता है? खादी ग्रामोद्योग द्वारा उत्पादित वस्तुओं की अनिवार्य रूप से सरकारी दफ्तरों, प्रतिष्ठानों एवं अन्य सरकारी क्षेत्रों में खरीद सुनिश्चित की जाए ताकि बाजार की मांग के उतार-चढ़ाव के कारण खादी ग्रामोद्योग के उत्पादन पर असर न पड़े और भंडारन की समस्या उत्पन्न न हो सके। साथ ही साथ हमारे खादी ग्रामोद्योग में या इन संस्थानों में उत्पादन के लिए जो इस आयोग के द्वारा कार्यकारी पूंजी दी जाती या बैंकों से ऋण मुहैया कराए जाते हैं उनमें भी कुछ इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था की जाए कि ब्याज की तलवार हमेशा सिर पर न लटके और मांग के हिसाब से उन लोगों का उत्पादन हो सके। इसके लिए हमेशा बाजार मुहैया किए जाएं।

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Consortium Bank Credit Scheme provided to the khadi and village industry

units is not at all useful. They charge a heavy rate of interest. So, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and of the Khadi Commission that working capital should be provided to the khadi units at a nominal rate of interest. Then alone can they avail of this facility. The Consortium Bank Credit Scheme is not at all helpful for the small units. This is the first point I would like to make.

The second point is with regard to the wages paid to the khadi workers. The wages paid to them are meagre. They are paid between Rs. 15 and 25. This is a shame on us. So, I would request the hon. Minister to declare a national minimum wage for the khadi workers and implement it. Then only it can help them. Now, the skilled workers are going elsewhere. They are seeking jobs elsewhere. So, it is very important. There is an urgent need to declare a minimum wage at the national level and implement it. Steps should be taken in this regard.

There is another point I want to mention. These days, throughout the world, people are turning to nature. People are having an inclination towards environment-friendly things. That gives us a vast scope for exporting khadi cloth. People are discarding synthetic clothes and the life-style containing synthetic things. To take advantage of this change, the Government should make a concerted effort. The Khadi Commission has to plan it; and with a wider campaign, I think, we can export our khadi clothes to other countries.

Sir, there is another point to which I have to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. There is no scope for marketing the things which khadi units prepare, other than khadi. The Khadi Commission is not doing anything on that. So, a marketing plan has to be drawn up and the units should be helped in marketing their produce.

Finally, Sir, I fully agree with hon. Dr. Manmohan Singh on what he said about Khadi Commission's revamping. The Commission should be reconstituted with people who can earnestly work for the promotion of khadi.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI S. AGNIRAJ (Tamil Nadu): Khadi village industries is closely associated with Mahatma Gandhi. If we look at the organisation of village society in India, right from the beginning, village was a self-sufficient unit. Self-sufficiency meant that the artisan living in that village met all the

requirements of the village life. It is because of this that in every village of India, there is a cobbler, a blacksmith, a carpenter and so on. In those days, these village artisans used to supply the needs of the villagers for the consumer items. It is a fact that in those days, the living standard was not so high and the villagers' demands for consumer goods were met with the products of the village artisans. Possibly because of this, Gandhiji, during the freedom struggle, conceived and gave the slogan of Gram Swaraj. This became the theme for the development process, as conceived by Gandhiji. The village artisans continued to be primitive in their tools, technological skills, design and had poor quality raw materials. They could not upgrade their skills and tools. Therefore, the result was that the consumer goods produced by the village artisans were slowly and slowly discarded by the people living in the villages. As a result of this, the village artisans were hardly able to earn their livelihood. They went to towns. That resulted in the migration of people from the villages to the towns and cities. The flight of people from the villages to the cities and towns created the problem of slums and also unemployment in the cities. The biggest question the Government of the day faces is the question of giving employment to the people of this country. While the Planning Commission of India has envisaged many schemes for eradication of poverty and unemployment, in spite of these schemes, no durable solution has come out and the result, is neither the flight of population from the rural areas to the urban areas has been stopped, nor the people in the rural areas have been able to get employment. The answer to the unemployment problem of this country lies in the Gandhian approach. Globalisation and liberalisation is not the answer. It can directly provide a few lakh jobs. The support services would certainly provide employment to a good number of people. But this would only cater to the population of cities and towns. The rural population would hardly get any employment. It is a sad commentary that Governments did not pay attention to the Action Plan and totally ignored the recommendations of the high-power committee. As a result of this, the Khadi Commission's budgetary support was reduced and the consortium loan, which was utilised up to 97-98 only to the tune of Rs. 472.22 crores, was also not made available to the Khadi Commission. This created a very awkward situation for the Khadi Commission and the Khadi and village industries sector of the country. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government of India that if unemployment in the rural area is to be eradicated, in our view, the rehabilitation of the rural artisan is a must. As has been mentioned earlier, the village artisans have inherent skills and they

can certainly meet the consumer needs of the rural and poor sections of the society. If their skills are upgraded, their tools improved, raw material of better quality is made available, along with designs and capital requirements, the future will be bright. The Khadi sector should be provided with sufficient capital for this purpose. As they have their own establishments, not much of capital would be required for infrastructure. The Khadi sector and Khadi production is free of environmental problems. The fabrics made of synthetic yarn are now being discarded. Therefore, in the near future, cloth produced by this sector has a bright future. The Government has not announced the policy regarding the rebate from 1.4.2000, so far. The rebate policy and its announcement on the due date has a great bearing on Khadi sales which finally determine the Khadi production. In these uncertain circumstances, the khadi institutions are not able to chalk out their production programme for the financial year 2000-2001. Due to that uncertain rebate policy and slump for the last four years, the sale of khadi goods has been adversely affected and heavy stocks of khadi have accumulated with the institutions. As such, the institutions are not able to carry on with their production resulting, ultimately, in reduction of employment. When stocks get accumulated, the capital availability is reduced, which results in the scaling down in production. It is worth mentioning that due to less provision in the Budget for rebate payment, the actual rebate paid to the customers by the institutions on sale of khadi and polyvastra is less. Rebate claims are pending with the KVIC, to be reimbursed to the khadi institutions. There are heavy amounts relating to rebate claims pending with several State Governments also. A very strange and discriminatory restriction has been imposed on institutions doing sales activity only. It is imperative that the rebate claims of these marketing institutions are reimbursed only after getting it audited.

Whereas, there is no ban on other institutions involved, both in production and sale. Their rebate claims are being reimbursed without any pre-audit. Sir, marketing is not only the backbone of Khadi and village Industries Sector but is also the key to the success of the whole Khadi and Village Industries Programme. The problem is, the required attention and working capital have not been paid to this very vital and important sector.

Sir, the hon. Minister in her statement mentioned that she had held zonal meetings of the institutions of the Southern Zone, Northern Zone, Western Zone and Central Zone to find out the problems and then the solutions to the problem of the KVI Sector. It was also mentioned that after

holding the final meeting with different zones, a self-contained "Khadi Package" would be announced with a hope to include the action plan as well as the policy framework. I hope the hon. Minister would announce the "Khadi Package" very soon. Thank you.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Calling Attention Motion moved by Dr. Manmohan Singh. I would like to pose some questions before the hon. Minister, based on the statement made by her. Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the Government is taking all necessary steps to promote Khadi and Village Industries. But the facts show opposite to this. The Plan assistance is coming down every year. In 1997-98, the Plan assistance was Rs. 440 crores; in 1998-99, it had come down by Rs. 96 crores i.e., to Rs. 344 crores; and, in 1999-2000, it had further come down to Rs. 320 crores. Hence, the Government is not very keen in developing the Khadi and Village industries because there is a decline in the Plan allocation every year.

Sir, coming to the creation of 2 million jobs, I would like to quote some of the figures from the Annual Report of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. In 1996-97, the grant to Khadi was Rs. 76 crores and the loan was Rs. 29 crores. Subsequently, this is on its decline. In 1997-98, the grant was Rs. 87 crores and the loan portion was Rs. 4 crores. So, the question is, the grant is misused. If you are giving the grant, it is linked to the loan. If you have given Rs. 87 crores as grant then the loan should have been more. But, the loan was only Rs. 4 crores. So, the Government has not taken any keen interest in promoting Khadi and Village industries. Sir, the Calling Attention Motion is on the closure of Khadi units. Now, the Khadi units, for the first time in fifty years, are being closed. It is really a matter of concern. In Dharwad, the Government, both at the State and the Central level, have failed to pronounce a policy on Khadi. Several units engaged in manufacture of Khadi since more than 6 decades are now languishing for want of funds. The recent victim of the Governments' apathy is the Dharwad Taluk Seva Sangh which has announced its closure. The DTSS has been functioning since pre-independence days and was manufacturing Khadi and other industrial goods. It has provided employment to 300 artisans. Sir, a veteran freedom fighter and President of the DTSS, Shri Narsuman Dave, has said that he has not received the quota of subsidy and loan for the past two years, and the mounting burden forced the closure of Sangh and the bhandar. Sir, a lot of Khadi and Village industries are being closed.

The other clarification which I would like to seek from the hon. Minister is: Why the Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, whose term has expired, has not been appointed? His term of office expired in September, 1999. But, so far, no person has been appointed as the Chairman.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry has made a unanimous recommendation on the Rural Employment Programme. It has stated that the Programme has totally failed.

Now, as the earlier speakers have said, the high-power committee's recommendations are there. Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the fact that this programme was meant for a particular weaker section. Special concessions have been provided for SC/STs, ex-servicemen, women, minorities, physically handicapped, OBCs and all other beneficiaries in the North-Eastern region. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since the inception of this programme, how many beneficiaries belonging to these sections have been benefited. They should be having the figures because this programme is meant for that particular section of the society. So, they are duty bound to give us the figures as to how many OBCs have been benefited; how many minorities have been benefited; how many people from the North-Eastern region have been benefited; and how many projects have been taken up for providing employment in the North-Eastern region, and in the Andaman and Nicobar islands. Out of the thousand-crore-rupee programme, which the Government has envisaged, the banks have disbursed only Rs. 73 crores in the last five years. I am quoting these figures from the report of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. How can the Government claim that they are taking all necessary measures to promote khadi and village industries? For example, quantitatively also, the khadi production has gone down. The khadi production which used to be 111.49 million square metres has gone down to 98 million square metres; the employment figure has also gone down. So, Sir, the concern of this House and also of those who are interested in seeing that the khadi and village industries should be promoted is that whatever the hon. Minister has said in her statement, in response to the calling-attention motion, are not the real facts and there is no concern. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission has been established with an intention to promote khadi and also to create village industries. The Commission has been given a target to achieve that, but nothing has been done. On the other hand, most of the Parliamentary Committees which had

visited those places recently had observed that the Commission is not functioning properly. All is not well with the Commission. The accounts have not been presented and there is no audit. There is no proper audit of the utilization of the grants. There is no utilisation of the grants. There are units which are taking crores of rupees as rebate and there are units which are not taking any rebate. The Minister has rightly accepted that there are bogus units. The statement does not say as to what the Minister would like... You have given certain factual things, but you have failed to state as to what corrective steps you are going to take in regard to the various corruption cases. How are you going to tackle them? How are you going to bring transparency in the disbursement of loans? And what steps are you going to take? Just by asking the Arther Anderson, a foreign company, to advise the khadi and village industry will not do. In that case, they will have to first study what khadi is. They will have to study what village industry is and then give a report. Another hon. Member had stated that already there is the report of the high-power committee which was headed by one of the former Prime Ministers of this country. They have drawn up a very good programme of Rs. 5,500 crores. Now, the Government should give an assurance as to how that report will be implemented. How is the Government going to see that the Rs. 5,500-crore programme for the rural industry and khadi and village industry is implemented, rather than saying that we will take care or we will do this or that? You have to give a specific assurance that the recommendations of the high-power committee will be implemented.

The banks will be forced to advance the loan. They are afraid of giving it because they fear that they will not be able to recover it. Therefore, there is a need to evolve a system where there will be transparency, the beneficiaries will be selected in a transparent manner, the various cooperatives and their marketing activities will be strengthened; and the khadi and village industry units will not be closed. An assurance is needed from the hon. Minister that the units which have been closed down will be revived or reopened or restored, and whatever assistance is required to be given to these units, will be given. Thank you.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh): You did not say anything about how to promote the use of khadi.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: It will be automatically promoted.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं आपका आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ क्योंकि मैंने भी कॉलिंग अटेंशन दिया था और आपने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, चर्चा काफी हो गयी है। जहाँ तक खादी का सवाल है स्वदेशी, स्वावलम्बन और स्वतंत्रता इनके साथ इसका इतिहास लगा है। खादी बनाने का कार्य केवल पिछले कुछ 50-60 साल से नहीं हो रहा है। इस देश में पिछले समय में 500 साल पहले भी हम सुनते थे कि जुलाहे चर्खा चलाते थे, हाथ से कपड़ा बुनते थे और लोग उसको पहनते थे। उसका कारण था उपसभाध्यक्ष जी कि हमारे देश में कपड़े के साथ संस्कृति जुड़ी है। जैसे भगवा वस्त्र कोई पहनता है तो स्वभाविक रूप से उसके सामने हमारा नत मस्तक हो जाता है क्योंकि वह भगवा वस्त्र पहनता है। उसी तरह से जो लोग खादी पहनते थे उनको देश का स्वतंत्रता संग्रामी माना जाता था। उनके प्रति नेता के रूप में आस्था रहती थी। लेकिन आज भगवा भी बदनाम है और खादी भी उसी के समानान्तर है।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि खादी के विस्तार के लिए एक समिति नरसिंह राव जी के संयोजकत्व में, अध्यक्षता में बनायी गयी थी। मंत्री महोदया जो 70 सुझाव इसके विकास के लिए दिए गए हैं उनका जरा खुलासा करें। इसके विकास के लिए इतने सुझाव दिए गए हैं लेकिन उसके बाद जो सरकारें आईं, आज जो वर्तमान सरकार है उसके पहले चार सरकारें आकर चली गयीं उन्होंने उस समिति के सुझावों में से किन-किन चीजों को किस प्रकार से इम्प्लीमेंट किया? खादी के कार्य के विस्तार के लिए मैं उन सुझावों में नहीं जाऊंगा क्योंकि एक से सत्तर तक गिनाने लगूंगा तो शाम हो जाएगी। इतनी बड़ी रिपोर्ट मैंने पढ़ी है। लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार ने उस समिति के सुझावों के बाद क्या-क्या इम्प्लीमेंट करने का प्रयास किया और एक-एक साल वाली सरकारों ने, पांच साल वाली सरकार ने या डेढ़ साल वाली सरकार ने भी समिति के सुझावों को कितना कार्य रूप में परिणित किया और उसके कारण जो समिति बनायी गयी थी क्या उसका उद्देश्य पूरा हुआ? अर्थात् उसके विकास को कितनी गति मिली? अगर गति नहीं मिली तो फिर आगे गति प्रदान करने के लिए हमारी सरकार किस प्रकार से कदम उठाएगी?

मैंने मंत्री महोदया का वक्तव्य पढ़ा है। मैं इस बात से अपने आपको संतुष्ट अनुभव करता हूँ कि हमारी एक साल डेढ़ साल की सरकार ने इस सारे मामले में जितनी गतिशीलता दिखायी है वह वास्तव में प्रशंसनीय है और यदि हम इस प्रशंसनीय कार्य को ठीक ढंग से चलाएंगे तो खादी के द्वारा स्वदेशी, स्वावलम्बन और स्वातंत्र्य इन तीनों उद्देश्यों को पूर्ण करने में हमें सफलता मिल सकती है। लेकिन यदि हमने इसमें अड़चनें डालने की कोशिश की या इसका हमने राजनीतिकरण करने का प्रयास किया - जैसे उपसभाध्यक्ष जी अभी पिछले दिनों यह हड़ताल हुई, चार दिन तक लगातार यह हड़ताल रही। मुझे भी आश्चर्य हुआ कि कभी भी खादी क्षेत्रों में इस प्रकार की हड़तालों का आयोजन नहीं किया गया लेकिन इस बार जानबूझकर इस सरकार के सारे प्रयासों के बावजूद भी हड़ताल का आयोजन कराया गया। हमारे जो मित्र हैं वे हड़ताल करवाते हैं यह बात सही है। लेकिन कम से कम इस क्षेत्र में आज तक हड़ताल नहीं हुई थी। ये कर्मचारी बड़ी निष्ठा से, बड़े प्रेम से और अपनी रोजी रोटी कमाने की दृष्टि से काम करते थे।

इनको हड़ताल के लिए प्रेरित करना उचित नहीं था। लेकिन उसके बावजूद उनकी हड़ताल कराई गई। यह राजनीतिकरण अगर इसमें किया जाएगा तो फिर इतनी विशाल और विराट जो संस्था है जिससे लाखों लोग अपनी रोजी-रोटी कमा रहे हैं, अपना रोजगार कर रहे हैं, उनको बहुत बड़ा घाटा हो जाएगा। उसमें अनावश्यक रूप से तनाव पैदा होगा। मैं मंत्री महोदया से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि आप कम से कम इनकी समस्याओं की तरफ अवश्य ध्यान दें। मैं दो

समस्याओं को आपके ध्यान में लाकर अपनी बात समाप्त कर दूंगा। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी आंख के इशारे को बराबर समझ रहा हूँ और लोगों को भी देख रहा हूँ कि इसमें ज्यादा समय लेना उचित नहीं होगा। मेरे दो-तीन सुझाव प्यायंटेडूली हैं। पहली बात तो बैंकों की है। मैं जानता हूँ कि बैंक का जो बिज़नेस है उसके अंदर कई प्रॉब्लम्ज़ आती हैं और छोटे-छोटे लोगों को ऋण देने में बैंकों को कोई आनन्द नहीं आता है। बैंक उनको एनकरेज नहीं करते हैं। बैंक इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था स्वीकार नहीं करते हैं। चाहे वह स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री हो, चाहे वह टाइनी इंडस्ट्री हो और चाहे खादी ग्रामोद्योग हो। बैंकों के द्वारा इनको प्रोपर संरक्षण मिले, बैंकों से जितना इनको फाइनांस चाहिए उतना फाइनांस मिले, और उसकी मॉनिटरिंग की व्यवस्था भी सरकार को करनी चाहिए। मंत्री महोदय, आप हमें स्पेसिफिकली बताएं कि क्या इस प्रकार की मॉनिटरिंग की कोई व्यवस्था, बैंकों और खादी कमीशन के बीच में या बैंकों और सरकार के बीच में, आपके मंत्रालय के बीच में, करने जा रही है, ताकि जो रुपया उनको मिलना चाहिए वह सुविधा से मिल सके? वे बहुत छोटे बोरोवर्ज़ हैं और उनके पास बार-बार बैंकों के दरवाज़े खटखटाने का समय नहीं होता। इसलिए मेरा मंत्री महोदय से सुझाव है कि पंचायत स्तर पर एक ऐसा क्लस्टर बनाया जाना चाहिए जिसके आधार पर बैंक वहां पर ऋण दें और ऋण दे करके उन संस्थाओं की तथा छोटे-छोटे व्यवसायियों की मदद करें। यह मेरा पहला सुझाव है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा दूसरा सुझाव है कि इस समय जो सारी व्यवस्था चल रही है उसको सुचारु रूप से चलाने के लिए खादी कमीशन को स्ट्रॉंग बनाया जाना चाहिए और उनके सदस्यों की जो नियुक्ति वगैरह नहीं हुई है या उनमें कुछ विलम्ब हो रहा है, वह काम भी किया जा सके। खादी कमीशन स्ट्रॉंग बना रहे और ब्यूरोक्रेसी उसके ऊपर हॉवी न हो जाए, उस दृष्टि से भी खादी कमीशन को ठीक ढंग से संचालित करने के लिए उसकी व्यवस्थाओं में आवश्यक परिवर्तन करते हुए खादी कमीशन को अधिक दृढ़, सुदृढ़ और अधिक अधिकार संपन्न बनाना चाहिए। यह मेरा सुझाव है और मेरी उनसे मांग भी है। आपने मुझे मौका दिया है, उसके लिए धन्यवाद।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुरेश पचौरी) : श्री मोहम्मद सलीम। ओनली फॉर 2 मिनट्स, प्लीज़।

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, खादी को ले करके जो राजनीतिक झगड़ा चल रहा है मैं उसमें नहीं जाऊंगा। मैं अपने तौर पर कुछ सुझाव मंत्री जी को देना चाहता हूँ। क्योंकि निचले स्तर पर ऐसे जो लोग बुनकर हथकरघा के साथ जुड़े हुए हैं और बहुत से ग्रामीण पेशों के साथ तथा कुटीर उद्योगों के साथ जुड़े हुए हैं, उनके साथ काम करने का, सरकारी नहीं बल्कि गैर सरकारी तौर पर, मेरा कुछ अनुभव है। उससे मैं समझता हूँ कि आपके स्टेटमेंट का जो आखिरी पोर्शन है कि करप्शन के बारे में आप कुछ कदम उठावेंगे तो यह बात सही है। जो एक टॉर्गेटड ग्रुप है अगर आप उनके लिए स्कीम नहीं बनायेंगे तो मिडलमैन जैसे इंफ्लिमेंटिंग एजेंसीज़ के अंदर कुछ गलत लोग आ जाते हैं, हर स्कीम में, और जो ग्रामीण उद्योग के लिए, खादी के लिए है तो हो सकता है, वह हुआ है। इसलिए आप स्कीम्ज़ को आसान से आसान करने की कोशिश करेंगे ताकि जिनके लिए आप कर रहे हैं उनका जो शिक्षा और समझदारी का स्तर है उससे ऊपर उठ करके जो उनका ब्यूरोक्रेटाइज़ेशन हो जाता है उसकी एक वजह यह है कि उनको किसी दूसरे के पास जाना पड़ता है, उसको सिपल करने के लिए। अभी रामदास अग्रवाल जी ने कहा कि एक क्लस्टर कांसेप्ट में जाना चाहिए। इतना बड़ा देश है। आप सब जगह चले जायेंगे तो मॉनिटरिंग नहीं होती है। यह सब जानते हैं कि आपकी जो लिस्ट है,

फेहरिस्त है ग्रामोद्योग और खादी के बारे में उसका कुछ-कुछ कंसेंट्रेशन है, ट्रेडीशनल काम करने की जगह है और वे कर रहे हैं। यहां आप क्लस्टर कांसेप्ट में इस स्कीम को लागू करते हैं और बैंक की जो मुदाखलत है अगर उसे कम करते हैं तो जो रुपया आप बैंक में दे देते हैं और वहां से नीचे जो डायरेक्ट टॉर्गेटेड ग्रुप ऑफ बैनिफीशरीज़ हैं उनके पास नहीं पहुंचता या बहुत दिक्कत होती है, तब दलाल पकड़ना पड़ता है। अब दलाल सब किस्म के होते हैं, मैं इस तरह से नहीं कहना चाहता, लेकिन उसे आप किस तरह से आसान करके डाइरेक्ट लोनिंग का अरेंजमेंट करेंगे, उसमें ज्यादा तवज्जह देनी चाहिए।

दूसरी बात मार्केटिंग के बारे में है। महोदय, हमारे इसी सदन में पर्दा भी खादी का लगा है, लेकिन आप जब एअर-कंडीशंड फर्स्ट क्लास में जाएंगे, किसी मंत्रालय में जाएंगे, मंत्रियों के घर जाएंगे तो वहां अक्सर सिथेटिक कपड़ा चल रहा है। यह थोड़ा अप-मार्केट का मामला है और बड़ा फैशनेबल मामला है। इस का विस्तार भी होता जा रहा है। तो जैसे कुछ दिन पहले रेलवेज में चला था ...(व्यवधान)... रिलायंस की नहीं, मैं सेल्फ-रिलायंस की बात कर रहा हूं। मैं किसी कंपनी का ब्रांड नेम नहीं लेना चाहता, लेकिन कहना चाहता हूं कि इस बारे में हमें सेल्फ रिलायंस होना चाहिए। महोदय, ऐसी बहुत सी जगहें हैं जहां आज भी केन्द्र सरकार और बाकी सरकारों के कार्यालयों में ग्रामीण और कुटीर उद्योग के सामान की खपत हो सकती है। उन्हें आप लिस्ट कर के उस में 25 या 50 परसेंट तक ऐसे सामान की खपत कर सकते हैं। लेकिन आप को इसे टार्गेट करना पड़ेगा क्योंकि जब मिडिल मेन आ जाएगा तो फैक्ट्री में बना हुआ सामान खादी के नाम पर बिक जाएगा। यह नहीं होना चाहिए। मार्केटिंग के बारे में आप सभी लोग जानते हैं और मंत्री महोदया तो और अच्छी तरह जानती हैं कि आजकल अप-मार्केट का मामला होता जा रहा है, लेकिन आज खादी ग्रामोद्योग को देखेंगे तो शहर की अच्छी लोकेशन में भी वही पुरानी अलमारी, पुराने शीशे लगे हुए हैं और दो-चार सामान लेकर लोग बैठे हुए हैं। महोदय, यह मेरी एक पुरानी आदत है कि मैं जिस नई जगह पर जाता हूं तो खादी भंडार में जरूर जाता हूं और देखता हूं कि लोकल प्रोडक्ट्स क्या मिलते हैं। तो पाला हू कि प्रोडक्ट्स भले ही न मिलें, लेकिन सब से कंजड़ जगह पुर उन की मार्केटिंग का बंदोबस्त किया गया है। इसलिए अगर कुछ स्पेशल स्कीम के अंतर्गत जो ट्रेडीशनल मार्केट की जगहें हैं, उन को अप-मार्केट करेंगे, उन का मॉडर्नाइजेशन करेंगे तो वहां यंगर जनरेशन को भी ज्ञान में इंटरेस्ट पैदा होगा और जो अप-मार्केट क्रेता है वह भी वहां जाएंगे।

महोदय, मैं और बातों को रिपीट नहीं करना चाहता क्योंकि बहुत से पॉइंट्स आ गए हैं। लेकिन कहना चाहता हूं कि खादी हमारे स्वराज, हमारे स्वदेशी नीति और स्वावलंबन की नीति से जुड़ा हुआ मामला है और वह अगर इस तरह से ध्वस्त हो जाता है तो बड़ा दुख होता है। खासकर जब डा० मनमोहन सिंह जी इस सवाल को उठाते हैं तो मैं वामपंथी होने के नाते 10 साल से इस सदन में कहता रहा हूं कि इस उद्योग के बारे में जो पॉलिसी चलाई जा रही है, अगर वही चलती रही तो कुटीर, लघु और ग्रामीण उद्योग खत्म हो जाएंगे। महोदय, चलो कहीं तो उस पर रोक लगनी चाहिए, कहीं तो वापिस मुड़कर देखने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए। वह अगर 10 साल में मुड़कर देख रहे हैं तो आप कम-से-कम दो-तीन साल में अपनी पॉलिसी को मुड़कर देखिए। धन्यवाद।

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, it was a most interesting debate on the Calling Attention motion. I want to thank everybody who

participated in it. I think it has been a very long time since khadi was discussed in the House. I think it is extremely important that the attention of all the Members, whether in the Lok Sabha or in the Rajya Sabha, is drawn to this very, very important sector. I do believe that all of us are concerned with it. I am very happy to see that Members across the board have expressed their concern. I am also pleased that I am able to have an opportunity of dispelling a lot of misconceptions that seem to be going around. In the last few months, every morning I got up and read the misconceptions of people, but I was never able to clear them all. This is the first opportunity that has come my way.

I must admit here that khadi, in no way, is a political movement. I believe it is something in which we all are involved, whichever party we may belong to. I also believe that whenever across the world, the word, "khadi" comes up, it will make us all stand up with pride because we know that it comes from India.

यह हम सब की इज्जत के साथ जुड़ी हुई है। इसलिए मैं नहीं सोचती हूँ कि खादी अकेले किसी को बिलांग करती है या अकेले किसी पॉलिटिकल पार्टी के अधिकार में आती है। यह हम सब की है और इस की इज्जत हमारी इज्जत है। सर, घूटते ही मुझे यह कहना जरूरी लगा क्योंकि जैसे सलीम साहब अभी कह रहे थे कि इस में इतने मिस-कन्सेप्शंस निकल रहे हैं कि हम सब लोगों को बैठकर इस का समाधान ढूँढना बहुत जरूरी है। खादी किस लिए रखी गयी थी, किस लिए के.वी.आई.सी. बना, पहले यह मैं आप के सामने रखना चाहूंगी

it was basically to create jobs in rural areas and also to utilise the rural resources.

It is a service organisation engaged in the promotion and development of khadi and village industries. The high-powered committee, headed by Shri Narasimha Rao, had said that it was not to be perceived as a financial institution. It should not involve itself with financial work. The financial dealings must go to the banks, which understand more about it.

As far as I am concerned, I must say that it is a very, very important sector. It is not only an employment spinner, but it also gives the people an opportunity to lead their life with dignity. It also helps in checking the migration of people from the rural areas to the urban areas.

Sir, I feel privileged to say that in this year, I have got an opportunity to look after a Ministry which deals with the Khadi and village industries sector. In the last seven or eight months I have travelled round the country to try and understand what problems the khadi and village industries and the small-scale industries are facing.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that the financial assistance is being granted by the Government, primarily in the form of grants, rebates and subsidies. We are giving loans also, but only for fulfilling the past commitments. As against the actual release of Rs.202 crores in 1999-2000, we have a plan provision of Rs.320 crores for the year 2000-01. Provision under the science and technology sector has been increased from Rs.70 lakhs to Rs.3/- crores. Under the REGP, against the actual release of Rs.11 crores last year, we have now made a provision of Rs.110 crores this year. This is one of the reasons why the funds remained unutilised in the banks. We are now channelising them and are trying to utilise the money as much as possible.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition spoke about the projects for bee-keeping, potteries and hand-made papers, under the IRDP. Rs. 11 crores have been set aside for the purpose. We are taking steps to move forward, as fast as we can.

As far as the village industries programme is concerned, we are now banking on, what is called, margin money. This has special concessions for SCs/STs, women, OBCs, particularly in the North-East areas, where 30 per cent of the project cost, as a special concession, has been given to them. Rs.365 crores have been released to implement the scheme. Rs.132 crores have been placed with the banks as advance subsidy. But, again, I would say that the utilisation here was very, very low.

When I took over, the utilisation was Rs.20 crores only. During the last eight or nine months, we have, through persuasion, put up the projects before the banks and the utilisation amount has been enhanced from Rs.20 crores to Rs.100 crores. The project approach has proved to be very successful. During 1995-96, the high-powered committee had suggested movement from pattern approach to project approach. Pattern approach was a direct loaning from the KVIC. The project approach is one which is appraised by the banks. Once we moved from the pattern approach to the project approach, it took a little while for the banks to understand and get on with the procedures. Then they started working with the smaller people. Now, it has worked so well that we are getting 95 per cent success, as opposed to a very low success rate that we were getting with the pattern approach. Moreover, employment creation has improved by leaps and bounds.

As far as the khadi programme is concerned, we, in the Government, are committed to it. Many Members have spoken about the rebate policy. Sir, the year 1999 was an election year. There was a three-month period in which it was announced and there was another three-month period during which the elections took place. But, as we took over, we announced it by December, and then, on the 1st of June we announced a rebate for the whole year, which is till March 2001.

Sir, I have the figures here before me. I am a little surprised that it has been brought up in this fashion. In the year 1995-96, the rebate policy was declared only for the months of the year.

I think it is important to look at all of this. It is also important to see that all rebate arrears are cleared till the beginning of this year. We have kept provision of Rs.129 crores for the rebate last year. Out of that, Rs.63 crores worth of rebates have been claimed. Of this, we have already made arrangements for the release of Rs.40 crores. The rest of the money will be released after certification and the procedures are completed by the people who require the rebate. Once that is done, there will be no problem. I think, for the first time, we have come to this state. In fact, I believe, the Government should really be congratulated for the effort that has been put in. I don't understand why people go on talking about the removal of subsidies, removal of rebates, because the Government has neither removed any rebate nor taken away any subsidy. I would like to say over here, there is a letter from the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh to the hon. Prime Minister in which he says, "I would like to bring to your kind notice to reconsider the decision to withdraw the subsidy and rebate on khadi and the discontinuing of financial assistance to the Khadi Udyog. In my opinion, this is a disservice to the spirit of swadeshi and the model of self-reliant growth that we have been pursuing since our struggle for independence please reconsider your decision." We are still trying to figure out what decision this is because we have taken no such decision. As far as the rebate is concerned, we, in fact, are well ahead. I was just looking at the position of the rebate in the States. I would like to bring to your notice, Sir, the situation as it exists today. In Karnataka, the amount of arrears today is Rs.5 crores. The rebate for 2000-2001 has not yet been announced. In Kerala, the rebate arrears are Rs.6.28 crores. They have announced a rebate of 10 per cent this year. In Madhya Pradesh, the arrears are Rs.1.50 crores. They have not announced the 10 per cent rebate for this year. In Bihar, it is Rs.7 crores. They have not announced the rebate, subsidy, for this year. In

Maharashtra, it is Rs.1.66 crores. They have not announced the rebate for this year. In West Bengal, it is Rs.8 crores. The rebate has not been announced for this year. As far as Delhi is concerned - because Mrs. Dixit has also been very concerned about khadi-there has not been any rebate declaration, not before and not now. So, I would like this misconception to be dispelled because so much of this is going around. People should now start looking into their own homes before they talk of this at the public level. In fact, against the original budget provision of Rs.64 crores in 1999-2000, we have released Rs.95 crores. In the next budget, we have kept a provision of Rs.129 crores. Here I would just like to point out to you a letter which has come to me from the Swadeshi Forum for Khadi. The Convenor is Mr. Kapil Sibal. Then, Mr. Daljit Singh, Dr. Manju Bhatt, Mr. V.K. Gupta, Mr. Pradeep Chauhan, etc. Mr. Ram Shastri has written a letter to the hon. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and sent a copy of it to me and to the Prime Minister. "Respected Sonia Gandhiji, I would like to draw your attention to the 9th August dharna for khadi subsidy, under your leadership. You may not be aware that on 5th August, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the SSI and RI Minister, Mrs. Vasundhara Raje, announced Rs.64 crores as khadi rebate and 100 days rebate in the current year. Following this, the Khadi Commission called off the 9th August rally and strike in the Khadi Bhavan. In this backdrop, there is no justification for you to sit on this dharna. Obviously, your advisors did not brief you properly on the issue. It is another matter that several other important khadi problems are yet to be solved." I have to bring this to your notice because you know, when we are discussing this, as of today, we have had a lot of raids on various institutions. Now, I just want to bring out the situation about the institutions. Yes, Dr. Manmohan Singh did mention that the khadi production has gone down; and, consequently the employment also. It has gone down. In 1996-97 it was 111.49 Msq Mts. In 1997-98 it was 104.20 Msq Mts. In 1998-99 it was 98.20 Msq Mts. crores. This is the quantity, in Msq metres. But, Sir, strangely enough, the rebate went up to 110 crores, 197 crores and then 160 crores during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively. Also keeping in mind, there is a Non-Plan expenditure of Rs.24 crores, Rs.24 crores, Rs. 24 crores still remains. I just like to know as to why that situation arose and because of that we had a few raids done.

Out of 66 institutions in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and many other parts of the country where we had the raids, I would imagine 99 per cent turned out to be bogus. Now, I do not have to say

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that this is not something that has happened overnight. The number of institutions under the KVIC in 1990-91 was 1172. But in 1995-96, it went up to 4777. It is a huge jump! I would just like to know what happened there, who took interest in this and how much of this actually went to the poor **bunkar** and 'karzin' that everyone talks about. I think they were all concerned. It is now time for us to take a long and hard look at all of this.

Dr. Manmohan Singh has talked about the Rs.5000-crore programme. It was a programme which, he said, would bring about some 20 lakh jobs, two million jobs. He said that the programme would be approximately Rs.5700 crores. I would like to say here that that was the time when Mr. Chidambaram was the Finance Minister. The institutions and the banks were asked, at that time, to give liberal credits, but the banks were extremely reluctant and did not. In spite of that, the Government has been releasing sufficient grants and subsidies as per their requirements. We are making an effort to sort this out so that the KVIC can get sufficient funds, so that they can pass on that money.

I would like to say here that there was a problem of term loan. We are trying, at this moment, to sort out this problem. What happened was that the Government extended a guarantee to the RBI for extending a line of credit to the Consortium of Bank Credit for Rs.1000 crores to the KVIC for releasing term loans to the Khadi and Village Industries sector. This was done after the agreement was signed between the RBI and the Government. I am very sorry to say that the funds which were utilised, were not utilised for term loan requirements, but treated as working capital. This has created serious problems for us because this amount of Rs.263 crores has been utilised by the Khadi institutions as working capital, against the terms and conditions which were imposed by the RBI and also agreed to by the then Government. The KVIC is making payment to the banks to honour the commitment of the Government, but the Khadi institutions are agitating and saying that these term loans should be converted into working capital. It is our job now to try and sort out this in the best possible manner and also to help alleviate these problems of the Khadi sector through the effective disbursement of at least credit.

Now, production and employment generation, Sir, are declining. We agree with that. They are declining because of poor quality, poor design and poor marketing. This is not something that happened overnight. It has

been happening. But I am very glad to say that everyone has woken up to this fact now. We have woken up to this the moment we came into this Ministry. We are, today, making special efforts to develop new products, new designs and to bring about new strategies. A lot of people wondered why we have brought in Arther Anderson. I would like to make a clarification here. Yes, the high-power Committee has made a lot of very, very useful suggestions. But, to take the Khadi institution into the 2000 and into the new millennium, it is important for us to be able to financially-restructure it in such a way that it will give the best results to the people who are part of it. I do not think Dr. Manmohan Singh will disagree with me. He was the one who opened out and also showed us the way. I think this is one of the ways in which we can make it into a world class product. Khadi is not something that I am going to take away and put behind the lock and key here in this country. It is something which has access and which will be popular across the world, if you are able to put it in the right context. I will say that is the reason why, for the restructuring, financial restructuring, and for the road map of how to take it in a globalised set-up, we have got in Arther Anderson. We hear a lot of comments about it in the newspapers. It is a company which is here, run by partners who are completely Indian, with 168 employees who are completely Indian. But the best part of it is that its professional services have been taken by the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board for a huge restructuring programme by the Haryana State Electricity Board for another huge restructuring programme, by the Karnataka Government which is looking at a whole investment scenario for the coming years. They have taken them--the RBI, the Bank of Baroda, the Allahabad Bank, the Petroleum Ministry, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Telecom Ministry, the Videsh Sanchar Nigam. I would imagine, Sir, there are so many people making use of the professional services of this group. I think khadi should also be allowed to make use of something that, obviously, so many people find good. As I have said, Sir, I have no intention of forcing these decisions down anyone's throat. I believe, probably, I am one of the few Ministers who have actually taken the trouble to attend the zonal meetings. I do not know how many people have done that. Maybe, I am wrong, but I have attended four zonal meetings and I will be attending the fifth one, in the first week of September. My idea is; we will all sit down and all of these will be put into a churning process - the high powered committee's reports, the Arthur Anderson's Report, which will come out by the end of October - and it is only with the participation of all those people who are concerned in the sector, that we will be able to come

out with a new plan for the next five years. I am hoping, and I am sure, that we will be able to, in the next few months, bring out a programme which will be for a five-year term, which will satisfy the people who have a genuine involvement with khadi. Our job is to take away all those wolves in sheep's clothing, or at least to make an attempt, and to try and bring people who are actually and deeply concerned with this sector so that we can today bring about a new horizon and new *disha*, I would say, for the khadi sector. I am very hopeful, Sir, because I see there is a lot of concern from everybody, and I believe that all of us, if we feel strongly about it, will apply ourselves, leaving aside all political considerations, to see that this sector actually works. I am very, very grateful, Sir, that you have given me the time.

Sir, I will just go through some of the issues that have been raised. Sir, while the khadi production has been going down, I will be happy to tell you that the V.I. production has been going up steadily. So, I believe that, if we are able to give some kind of thought and vision towards the V.I. sector, we will be able to put together a huge area which will provide the rural employment that the hon. Leader of the Opposition and everybody else was talking about.

As far as hand-made paper and honey is concerned, the work was started in 1991. In Sanganehar we have established an institute for hand-made paper, and the production and export has started increasing. UNDP's assistance is also being utilised to strengthen it.

Regarding honey, Sir, we have an institute in Pune, and that has been strengthened, and we are further strengthening it with the Rs.11 crore amount which the UNDP has given us. All these efforts of KVIC we will be putting into some kind of pipeline, after the zonal meetings and the weekly discussions with the stake-holders have taken place. We want that our technology, our R&D activities are strengthened. Wherever these activities exist, we would like to strengthen them. As Mr. Salim said, -and I do believe- the market is very important. Market standards, advertising campaigns, new products and new designs are the new focus for us and we want to be able to put much of our efforts into this.

Regarding credit, Sir, it is extremely important and banks are being monitored regularly so that we can motivate them and get them to lend. This is the reason that the Margin Money Scheme which was 20 crores of rupees has now gone up to almost a hundred crores of rupees. That, I

think, is a very major improvement. Khadi can generate employment, and with new products, new designs, new marketing strategies, we will be able to do a lot. Sir, we have taken recently initiatives with NID and NIFT. I told you, Sir, that there has been absolutely no delay in rebate. In fact, it has been granted much earlier than by most others. I have explained to you about Arthur Anderson. We are looking at quality standards, we are looking at modernisation and renovation of the old Khadi Bhavans, and also, as I said, at the R &D activities .

Sir, I will quickly go to other areas, what we plan to do. As far as the measures to prune out corruption are concerned, we will be happy to see that normally it is over a hundred crores of rupees, the rebate claims, but this year, because of the steps that we have taken, we expect those claims would be less than 75 crores of rupees.

We have had friendly discussions with the khadi institutions and the stake-holders, and we will be able to put a policy through and an action plan for five years very soon. As far as the new initiatives are concerned, the khadi institutions have written to us about their problems. They would like the procedure for releasing khadi rebates to be simplified and also to make it efficient and institution-friendly. We agree to that and we are looking into it. This will be part of the package with which we are coming out. We have brand names for khadi and village industry products. Khadi and Sarvodaya have been registered as brand names. We have registered Khadi as domain name and we have also registered Khadi as a geographical indication. New products and new designs, as I have said, are looked into by NID, NIFT, etc. The new marketing strategy includes opening of khadi shops at international airports. As regards the cluster programmes, which everybody talked about, we will emphasise one by one and take them up.

Bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides is another area to which we are paying a lot of attention. Finally, we are considering how to bring more capital into the KVI sector. There is an inventory of Rs.750 crores. Mr. Rahman Khan mentioned about this. I must say that this Rs.750 crores did not build up over the last seven months. It was built up over the years. I agree that it is there; and it is there because of substandard quality, because it was not sold in time and because of a lot of other problems. But we have said that we will take every step to liquidate this inventory and we are going to do it through various exhibitions, when they meet at urban centres as well as rural centres. We hope that we will be able to get this

done very soon so that the money can go back to it as working capital. We will be giving them assistance to do this. Institutions will also be allowed to give additional rebate from the Price Fluctuation Fund. I will again request all the State Governments to release the State rebates and refrain from writing to us, unless they have done so. As far as the CBC loan is concerned, we are working out the problem of capital. As I have said, CBC is really meant as term-loan. But we are releasing it to khadi institutions and we will treat it as working capital, which is against the terms and conditions of the loan. We intend to find a solution to this at the earliest. I would like to say that since I have had the opportunity and privilege of being with this sector only for the last seven or eight months, we are coming up with a package for the small-scale sector, giving them a level-playing field, and we are trying to build up their confidence so that they can go into the 21st century holding their heads high. This is for the first time that something like this is happening. I think we need to commend the Prime Minister for having taken this step. In the meanwhile, we are working out the khadi things. I think within a short period of time, say, one year or one-and-a-half years, if we are able to make this into a reality, और इसका कार्यान्वयन इतनी जल्दी हो सकता है तो बहुत अच्छी बात है। I request the hon. Members to extend their co-operation in the time to come because it is a sector that all of us are concerned with. I am sure, together we will be able to turn this sector around.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Sir, we can have a half-an-hour lunch break.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Sir, I want to seek one clarification.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): No. Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) 2000-2001.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

(RAILWAYS) 2000-2001

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 2000-2001. [Placed in library. See No. LT-2225/00]