

Minister of Human Resource Development to consider it and provide a central school there from next session and issue directions in this regard

[English]

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) Mr Chairman I would like to bring to your notice and also the Government and the House the problems faced by some industries in Assam now as a result of the high price and non-availability of raw material. There is a growing incidence of lay off, retrenchment and closure of industrial units in the state which is very much backward economically and industrially.

The recent hike in the price of viscose fibre and its short supply has gone a long way to make the textile units sick. The recent policy also affects the prospect of industrial growth in Assam. As an instance one may cite the case of Indian Carbon. The factory has so far been using the raw petroleum coke available from the refineries in Assam. As a result of the decanalization the cost of the indigenous petroleum coke is almost double the price of imported coke, Rs 5602.26 per Metric Tonne for indigenous coke while the price of imported coke at present is Rs 2700 per Metric tonne.

Assam, being far away from ports, has to bear the high transportation cost. Again the use of indigenous raw transportation cost. Again the use of indigenous raw material has also become costly for the factory. Naturally, the result is that the factory is going to be closed down. A peculiar situation is that while incentive for industrialisation is declared, factories are being closed every day.

In view of the above I urge upon the Central Government to give a thought to the problem of raw materials facing the industries in Assam and also arrange the things in such a way that Assam and the states in the North-Eastern region are treated as a special category states in words and deeds.

[Translation]

MAJ GENERAL (Retd) BHUWAN CHANDRAKHANDURI (Garhwal) Mr Chairman, Sir, through you I want to remind the Government that the birthday of late Shri Hemvatinandan Bahugana falls on 25th April. He was a great patriot and freedom fighter and had served this country.

He took active part in the Quit India Movement in 1942 as a result of which he was imprisoned by the British Government. Due to tortures inflicted on him during long terms of imprisonment, he suffered many diseases but he continued to give leadership to various student Organisations, labourer Organisations and unions from the jail itself. He also served the country as a minister in the centre having very Finance etc. and also as a Chief Minister and Cabinet Minister in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr Chairman, Sir, on 17th March, 1993 which is his death anniversary during zero hour, I had requested the Minister for communications to issue a commemorative stamp on late Bahuganaji on the occasion of his birthday on 25th April. The then Minister of Communications Shri Rajesh Pilot had agreed to my suggestion but the same has not been issued till date. I therefore request the hon. Minister for communications to immediately get issued a commemorative stamp in the memory of late Bahuganaji.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) Mr Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the working of N T C whose every mill is incurring a loss of crores of rupees every month. The main cause behind the loss in these mills is the rampant corruption. The appointments and promotions in N T C are made arbitrarily as there are no written rules in this regard. That is why a person who does not qualify even for the post of a peon is working as General Manager. He has formed his gang and this gang makes appointment of Chairman. Managing