

sympathy of all the people and we all are the members of one family. While this case is being investigated into by the Central Government through the CBI which would present its' status report at the same time we will ask the State Government also to conduct a serious inquiry into it to find out the facts... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Sir, 85 lakh powerloom weavers of India, who are the sons of handloom weavers, are now in great difficulty. This year, for powerloom weavers, the export quota was only ten per cent, but due to the wrong export policy of the Government of India for textiles, they are allowing ninety per cent quota for the mill cloth. Out of the total cloth produced in India, only six per cent is produced by the mills and ninety per cent is produced by powerlooms, but the powerloom sector was allowed only ten per cent quota.

In this regard, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Prof. Madhu Dandavate had written a letter to the Government of India on 15.7.97 saying that the quota must be increased to 25 per cent for the powerloom sector. But even though the letter came from the Planning Commission, the Government of India did not allow 25 per cent to be exported by the powerloom sector. They allowed only ten per cent to be exported. Because of that, 85 lakh powerloom weavers are now suffering. Fifty per cent of the powerloom sector has now been closed, mostly in Tamil Nadu because out of the 85 lakh powerlooms, 35 lakh powerlooms are in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Tiruchengode, Komarapalayam, Erode, Tirupur, Coimbatore, Palladam, Somanur, Gudiyatham and Rajapalayam. I urge upon the Government that this anomaly should be rectified. Twenty-five per cent of the export must be allowed to the powerloom sector.

I also demand that the Government should withdraw the ban on powerloom not to weave certain varieties of cloth. All the varieties should be allowed to be woven by the powerloom sector. This is most essential. The Government of India must consider this.

[Translation]

SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you towards a serious incident which took place in my constituency. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Greater Kailash comes under my parliamentary constituency. One Income Tax Officer told the shopkeeper of M. Block market in Greater Kailash that he wanted to talk with the shopkeepers in connection with voluntary disclosure scheme and a meeting should be called for this purpose. Deputy Speaker, Sir, by taking it in natural way all the shopkeepers arranged a meeting there in Meenar Restaurant. Those shopkeepers visited my house last night with feelings of anguish and agony on their faces and the details of the meeting which they gave, can not be set-

aside. Therefore, I have sought your permission to place this point before the Government. I would not like to point out the name of that Income Tax Officer, I will give the name to the Government through you separately. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, without giving any introduction, they opened the meeting with these words-

[English]

'My name is so and so. Do not take me for granted. Either mend yourself or I will put all of you behind the bars.'

[Translation]

He further added that they would pine for the bail just as all pick pocket and thieves sitting on the benches of Patiala House. He said that Voluntary Disclosure Scheme was total failure and that he had talk with Chidambaram that also latter regretted it.

He was not using any respectable word for Finance Minister. He was addressing him in such a manner as if Mr. Chidambaram were his younger brother. A woman walked out of the meeting after hearing such abusive language. The meeting prolonged for one hour and during that one full hour he kept on rebuking, threatening and challenging the people that Voluntary Disclosure Scheme is a failure and we are not receiving revenue from anywhere and therefore I am warning you that either you mend yourself or I will heavily bring crack down on you, conduct raids and put you behind the bars. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my area the people of M. Block Market, Greater Kailash have put their shutters down. All the people are on strike. They are registering their protest. I would like to ask through you, whether such measures would be resorted to implement the policies, which have been announced by the Government.

If the voluntary disclosure scheme is not an appropriate scheme or if it is not getting success, then would you take such recourse and give threats by sending Income-tax officers. Leader of the House is present here, I would ask him to take a serious note of it and bring it to the notice of the Finance Minister. Later, I will disclose the name of the Income-tax officer who has done all this to you. Action should be taken against all such officers. If you ensure me, I will go to the market and ask them to open their shops. Therefore I would like that Government must respond to it, even for a minute... *(Interruptions)* Deputy Speaker, Sir, please ask them to respond for a minute on my query ... *(Interruptions)* Deputy Speaker, Sir, you please ask, the leader of the House is present here *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am listening as well as watching.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : If the leader of the House responds to it by saying that the