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Title : Regarding import duty on raw silk.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, sericulture is one of the areas which has been engaging thousands of workers in order to have their livelihood. This Government, in its Budget proposals, has proposed to reduce the import duty on raw silk. Ostensibly, it may appear that it will be intending for the benefit of silk weavers in the country, but this may adversely affect the silk cocoon growers, seed preparers, reelers and matka spinners because of a sharp fall in the price of indigenous silk, which in turn will affect the price of silk cocoons. This would ultimately lead to mass scale uprooting of the food plants, that is called Mulberry, because this sector would be no more profitable. For procuring indigenous silk one has to be dependent

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Sir, silk industry will be solely dependent upon the imported silk. The Chinese silk yarn has already been flooding the indigenous market. That is why, I would request the Government to ponder over these import duties so that our indigenous silk weavers could be saved from being deprived of having their livelihood. It is apprehended that the price of imported silk by the exporters to India will also increase exponentially as because at that point of time the weavers would have no other way to go than to depend on the imported silk. So, to save the Indian silk market, I would propose to the Government to again consider the import duty of silk so that a balance could be made between the importer and indigenous weaver.

(व्यवधान)

प्रो. रंजन प्रसाद यादव (पाटलिपुत्र): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, साढ़े तीन बजे से प्रॉइवेट मैम्बर्स बिजनस है। वह कब होगा?

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : प्रॉइवेट मैम्बर्स बिजनस शुरू होने में अभी थोड़ा समय है।

(व्यवधान)