

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 Tirchengode, Komarapalayam, Erode, Tirupur, Coimbatore, Palladam, Somanur, Gudiyatham and Rajapallayam. 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 women 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

Government will take a serious note of it, I will go and get the shops opened (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You give in writing. We will get that examined through the Finance Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will give in writing (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Sushma ji has raised the matter in a proper way. Now you listen (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please present your point.

..... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this House, the question of giving recognition to the organisation named as Railway Protection Force has been raised time and again during last so many years. It is under consideration of the Ministry of Railways. The then Minister of Railways Shri Janeshwar Mishra had declared in the House to recognition the Association. On 13.5.97, Shri Basudeb Acharya was in the Chair, when Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev raised the matter here. At that time Mr. Acharya directed the Government to make an announcement in this regard in the House immediately, within two days. But till now, no action has been taken by the Ministry of Railways or by the Minister of Railways. On this question great resentment and apprehension is prevailing among all the members and employees. The office bearers have given a notice of self immolation. Through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Railways to break an announcement for giving recognition to the Railway Protection Force by taking a decision at the earliest..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Minister of Railways is present here, please ask him to give an immediate statement (*Interruptions*) Many times it happened.

[*English*]

12.28 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Harivansh Sahai came and sat on the floor near the table.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. It is a State Subject. It will not be allowed

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I want to speak about the recognition to the R.P.F. Association (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your's is a State subject, therefore I will not allow.

..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me for a minute. The matter which he wants to raise, is a State subject, I will not allow.

..... (*Interruptions*)

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Minister of Railways should say something about the RPF Association (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not related to the Centre, Income-tax is a central subject

..... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

I have allowed him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am sorry, I cannot go beyond the rules.

[*Translation*]

If you are not willing to discuss it during the zero hour, it is up to you, but please sit down.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record. What is the use of speaking.

..... (*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, please go on speaking

..... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Harivansh Sahai, I request you to please go to your seat.

..... (*Interruptions*)