

(Varanasi). These small scale units need 2000-2500 tonnes of raw material per month, whereas they are hardly given 40 to 45 tonnes of their allocated quota. As such, these units are facing serious crisis and most of them are on the verge of closure. In that event, a large number of people could be rendered unemployed.

In view of this, I demand that the small scale units mentioned above be suitably considered for higher allocation of raw material so that they may function smoothly and save large number of employees as well as the workers, most of whom are SC & ST, from retrenchment.

(iii) Need to take necessary steps for the overall development of Sunderbans area in West Bengal

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while nature has been bountiful to Sunderbans in West Bengal for its rich flora and fauna, scenic beauty and ambience, the renowned 'Bengal Tigers', its people are deep rooted in poverty. They are not only ill-clad and ill-fed but a sizeable number of them do not even have two square meals a day. Their main avocation is wood-cutting and fish breeding. While going to the forest for wood cutting, a good number of them are mauled by the ferocious tigers and there is hardly any hamlet in the area where there is not a 'tiger widow'. I would urge the Government to put up infrastructure in cooperation with the State Government to start small scale village industries and ask the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to take a lead in this sphere. The Government should also ask the NABARD or some of the Regional Rural Banks to open one of its Branches in this area to give loans to the poor for starting some cottage industries.

Further there is great scope for increasing production of fisheries, which can play an important role in the

economy of the region. The Government of India should take urgent steps to extend the Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP) 'Small Scale Fisherfolk Communities in Bay of Bengal' to the Sunderbans Area also.

(iv) Need to remove discontent among the Sikhs in Punjab

[Translation]

S. ATINDER PAL SINGH (Patiala): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to submit the following matter under rule 377:—

The innumerable Sikh youth in Punjab are detained unconstitutionally for months without producing them before the Magistrates according to the constitutional provisions and they are inhumanly tortured by the Punjab Police and the Central Para-Military Forces. If these youth die in custody due to the torture, the police show them as killed in encounter. As a result, a feeling of discontent and secession is growing among the Sikh community there.

Therefore, I request the Government to take firm and practical steps and take action against the officers who are guilty of such cruel acts. Further, the Government should pay compensation to all affected youths and should release all those who are under unconstitutional detention of the Punjab Police.

(v) Need to provide more funds for SC/ST students living in hostels of educational institutions, particularly in Orissa

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Sir, there are a large number of hostels for the high schools for Scheduled Caste and Tribal boys in the country specially in Orissa where the stipend given to a student per month is Rs. 100/- for food,