

[Prof. Saif-Ud-Din Soz]

(*Interruptions*)

the Rajya Sabha on the Prasar Bharati Bill. I would request you to go to the business.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Rawat, if you are not calling the attention, then I will go to the next item in the Agenda.

[*Translation*]

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I and other 12 hon. Members of Parliament are trying to raise the same issue but you are not allotting the time for it. Keeping in view our request kindly allow us to raise the issue.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almorah): Sir, I am not doing anything wrong.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, what do you want?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever Shri Harish Rawat says only will go on record and nothing else.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Baroda, Gujarat. Some people resorted to stone throwing from a religious place on a religious procession on the occasion of immersion of Ganesh idols resulting in clashes and death of 12 to 15 persons. Today the situation has reached such a point as our people cannot observe any religious festival. I would like to request you to institute an inquiry into the incident and ask the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to make a statement in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rawat, if you are not calling the attention, then I will go to the next item.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If Mr. Rawat is interested in the Calling Attention Motion, I call upon him to call the attention of the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Textiles to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:-

15.45 hrs

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

"Reported delay in taking decision regarding extension of cotton monopoly procurement scheme to Maharashtra thus affecting the cotton growers and the steps taken by the Government in that regard."

Extension of cotton monopoly procurement scheme to Maharashtra.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Please sit down. This has taken too much.

I have called the attention, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to sit down please.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Minister.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): While approving extension of the Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme for a period of one year in 1989, the Central Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee in July, 1989 consisting of representatives from the Ministries of Textiles, Commerce, Agriculture, Finance and Reserve Bank of India to examine in depth the merits and demerits of further continuation of the Scheme beyond 30th June, 1990. The Committee invited the views of, and held discussions with all organisations directly or indirectly affected by the operation of the aforesaid Scheme including the Government Maharashtra, Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Federation Ltd., All India Cooperative Cotton Federation, Cotton Corporation of India, Indian Cotton Mills Federation, etc. The Committee has since submitted its report to Government, which is under very active consideration of the Government and a decision in this regard is expected to be taken very soon. Since the decision is expected to be taken well before the start of arrivals of the new crop, the question of interests of growers being affected does not arise.

2. I understand the concern of the Hon'ble Members on the subject. I want to assure them that Government is fully seized of the matter and is taking an early decision on the matter of extension of the Scheme.

Sir, you are very particular about time. Whatever Mr. Rawat and others have said that I wanted to give in writing to the hon. Speaker. This matter is to be decided tomor-

row and while taking decision thereon due account will be taken of the feelings expressed by hon. Members here. I do not want to take much time of the house. This is a compulsion and it is better to extend it. We will act according to the suggestions we have received.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard the statement given by the hon. Minister and assurance given by him to this house. I am very thankful to him that he had shown a very sympathetic attitude to this matter and I believe that very soon he will take a decision which will meet the aspiration of the people of Maharashtra. We are very concerned about it because of the ensuing cotton procurement season. If the Government will not take timely decision in this regard, the agencies which are engaged in this work will have to face a lot of difficulties.

Unfortunately the past performance of the Ministry in this regard now held by Shri Sharad Yadavji has not been very satisfactory and people have apprehensions about it. We have raised this matter many times. The Maharashtra Government and the Chairman of Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme had also requested him to extend the scheme for atleast another ten years. You may also agree to the reasons advanced in favour of this demand. They want that if this scheme for procurement is allowed to continue for another ten years they can be able to prepare a long term plan. On that case they can be able to work not only for the welfare of this body but for these farmers also who are associated with this body. I request you to extend the validity of this procurement scheme for atleast another ten years. This has also been requested by the Management of the Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I realise your attentiveness in regard to time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time at the disposal of the House is yours. I am not to have my say it is. You people to have your say.