

- (v) **Need to take measures to safeguard the interest of jute growers in the country, particularly in Bihar**

SHRI D.L. BAITHA (Araria) : Special attention of the Government is drawn towards the very sad and pitiable conditions of jute growers, particularly in Bihar. The districts of Purnea, Katihar, Saharsa, Madhepura etc. have this as the only cash crop. The jute growers have to face serious difficulties, harassment, and exploitation.

Hence the following arrangements be immediately made in this regard :

(a) To set up a research centre in the area, preferably at Araria, to examine.

(i) if the jute seeds could be produced in the area itself ;

(ii) suitable variety as per local conditions ;

(iii) improvement in jute ratting process ;

(iv) better use of jute sticks ;

(v) village cottage industries suitable for diversification of jute fibre produce etc.

(b) Total requirement of internal consumption of jute be assessed, and announced with remunerative prices; before the next sowing season ;

(c) Forward trading in jute be banned by legislation and distress sale of jute be avoided by giving jute growers financial aid loans ;

(d) Total quantity of jute brought to JCI should be bought as per Government's assurance, and refusal on the plea of shortage of space should not be resorted to ;

(e) Each variety of jute fibre sample grown in the area should be exhibited in each centre, showing the buying price rate against each ;

(f) Jute growers should be encouraged to form jute cooperative societies, by giving monetary aid and export licence.

(g) Jute Development Board be made more effective, to tackle these problems by including representatives of jute growers from different States.

- (vi) **Need to establish textile mills complex in Assam.**

SHRI M.R. SAIKIA (Nowgong) : Bongaigaon Refinery and Petro-Chemicals Ltd. will produce 30,000 M.T. of polyester fibre. The entire quantity should be processed into yarn within the State, in the 25 spinning mills with 25,000 spindles each, or in larger spinning mills with more spindles. As much of the yarn produced, either in the pure form, or blended as yarn possible should be processed within the State, into fabrics. It would, therefore, be necessary to establish a textile mills complex in the State within the shortest possible time. These spinning and textile mills will be able to generate jobs for about 2,00,000 people.

[Translation]

- (vii) **Need to reduce the prices of agricultural implements and ensure reasonable prices of agricultural produce to ameliorate the lot of farmers.**

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI (Faizabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the occupation of a major part of our population is agriculture and its problems are becoming acute day by day. Our farmers are beset with the problems of increasing families, fragmented land holding, increasing prices of inputs used in agriculture, costly agricultural implements and the hike in the prices of other consumer articles and on top of it, there is not much hike in the prices of agricultural produce which has put the farmers in difficulty.

Today, the politics of pressure by the organised groups to force the Government to accept their demands is in practice. Keeping this fact in mind, the farmers are thinking that as they are not organised, the Government does not pay any attention towards their problems.

Therefore, it is necessary that the prices of fertilizers and agricultural implements should be reduced and the programme of reclamation of waste land should be accelerated. In order to bring more area under

irrigation, more funds should be allocated for the construction of canals and sinking of tubewells and the prices of agriculture produce should be fixed in consultation with the farmers.

I hope that the above suggestions will be considered seriously.

(viii) Need to set up a memorial at Patiali town in Uttar Pradesh in the memory of the great poet Amir Khusro.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Etah in Uttar Pradesh is a Parliamentary Constituency as well as an Assembly constituency. There is an ancient town named Patiali in it. This town has also its historical importance. It is the birth place of the famous Urdu-Hindi poet, Amir Khusro. The riddles written in Hindi and Urdu by Hazrat Amir Khusro are very famous and are very popular even today. But it is a matter of regret that the Central Government has not set up any such institution in this town which may keep the memory of this great poet alive. Hazrat Amir Khusro has a very important place in Hindi literature. Several books have been written on him in Hindi and Urdu.

I want that a literary institution should be set up at Patiali (District Etah), the birth place of the famous poet. Patiali town is one of the important places of the tehsil and has railway station, block and police station also.

The Government should set up an Institution or park in that town to perpetuate the memory of this great poet Hazrat Amir Khusro so as to ensure the development of that town.

14.30 hrs

[English]

Statement regarding price Policy for raw cotton for 1987-88 season.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : Sir, after taking into account all relevant factors including

the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, Government have decided to fix the minimum support prices for the fair average quality of raw cotton for the 1987-88 season as follows :

(a) For the basic variety, H-4, in the long and superior long staple group of cotton, the minimum support price shall be Rs. 550 per quintal. The support prices for other varieties in this staple group will be fixed by the Textile Commissioner in the light of their normal market price differentials with the basic varieties.

(b) For F-414/H-777 variety, the minimum support price shall be Rs. 440 per quintal. For varieties other than those in the long and superior long staple group, the Textile Commissioner will fix the support prices in the light of their normal market price differentials with F-414/H-777 variety.

The Cotton Corporation of India will undertake price support operations in all cotton growing States, except Maharashtra, in case market prices trend to fall below the level of the minimum support prices fixed by the Government.

The minimum support prices of raw cotton of fair average quality fixed by the Government for 1987-88 season mark an increase of Rs. 10.00 per quintal over the corresponding prices for the previous season and are intended to provide continued incentive to cotton growers to increase production and productivity of cotton.

14.33 hrs

[English]

Railway Budget 1987-88 General Discussion

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House shall now take up general discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 1987-88.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are initiating