

[Sh. Madan Pandey]

Lakhs of weavers in handloom producing centres of Eastern U.P., such as Gorakhpur, Khalilabad, Maunath Bhanjan, Toda etc. are on the verge of starvation due to aforesaid situation.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to make appropriate changes in textile policy with a view to ensure supply of yarn to the weavers at cheap rates, make arrangements for purchase of and payment for their products at remunerative prices. The Government should arrange to set up yarn mills, printing, processing and dyeing plants at Gorakhpur—a handloom textile producing centre.

Government should also arrange to impart training in modern techniques to the weavers at Gorakhpur etc. and set up handloom centres.

[English]

- (iii) **Need to extend the Special Rice Production Programme to all blocks of Ganjam District, Orissa and also extend it beyond March; 1989**

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Sir, special rice production programme has been taken up in 63 blocks in the State of Orissa. Out of these, 7 blocks belong to Ganjam district which is predominantly an agricultural district. The people of the district are hard-working cultivators who believe in agricultural production in letter and spirit.

The term of the special rice production programme in 7 blocks of Ganjam district where it is operative now, is running out by March, 1989. As the progress of the programme is appreciable, it would be better if the programme is extended beyond March, 1989. The programme in question should

also be extended to all blocks of the district of Ganjam.

Ganjam district is affected by recurring drought and on account of unpredictable climate very often, the hard work of people does not produce the desired result. If special rice production programme is extended to all the blocks of the district, it will boost the morale of the cultivators and they will imbibe the spirit of augmenting agricultural production in the years to come.

As the programme is satisfactorily operating, the entire district should get the benefit of this programme.

[Translation]

- (iv) **Need for special financial assistance or grant to the State Government of Rajasthan to tackle water scarcity problem in Tonk Parliamentary Constituency**

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA (Tonk): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is acute shortage of drinking water in some parts of my constituency Tonk. The schemes to solve the drinking water problem in my constituency are grossly lacking. In the past 4 years, due to scanty rains either the wells have dried up or the water level in wells has gone too down. It is unfortunate for Rajasthan that the State Government is short of financial resources to attend to the problem of drinking water as it has to spend heavy sums every year to tackle the situation arising from recurring faming and other natural calamities.

I request the Central government to provide special financial assistance or grant to the State Government of Rajasthan to tackle the problem of water scarcity, particularly in my constituency Tonk and for con-