

[Sh. P. Kolandaivelu]

term of the Committee *vice* Sarvashri Parvathaneni Upendra, Virendra Verma and Jaswant Singh resigned from the Committee and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate three members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of this House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Sarvashri Parvathaneni Upendra, Virendra Verma and Jaswant Singh resigned from the Committee and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted*

#### ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

##### Committee on Public Undertakings

[English]

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN (Alleppey): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 312 B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, five members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Sarvashri Dinesh Goswami, Mohd. Mahfooz Ali Khan, Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, Ajit Kumar Saha and Bezawada Papi Reddy resigned from

the Committee/Lok Sabha."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 312 B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, five members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Sarvashri Dinesh Goswami, Mohd. Mahfooz Ali Khan, Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, Ajit Kumar Saha and Bezawada Papi Reddy resigned from the Committee/Lok Sabha."

*The motion was adopted*

#### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

##### Recommendation to Rajya Sabha to nominate Members

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN (Alleppey): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate three members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of this House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Sarvashri T.R. Balu, Dipen Ghosh and Kamal Morarka resigned from the Committee and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do

agree to nominate three members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of this House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice-Sarvashri T.R. Balu, Dipen Ghosh and Kamal Morarka resigned from the Committee and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

*The motion was adopted*

12.15 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

[English]

**Situation arising out of recent steep hike in price of hank yarn rendering thousands of handloom and powerloom workers jobless**

**KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE** (Jadavpur): Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister of Textiles to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of the recent steep hike in the price of hank yarn rendering thousands of handloom and powerloom workers jobless and the steps taken by the Government in that regard."

**THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRJHA):** The increasing trend in the prices of hank yarn has been causing us some concern. This is because hank yarn is primarily used by the handloom sector on which depends the livelihood of millions of weavers. The prices of cotton as well as cotton yarn rose steeply as a result of severe drought conditions in 1987-88. As a result, prices of hank yarn in counts of 20s and 40s increased by 42% and 33% be-

tween June '87 and June '88 respectively. It was hoped that the larger crop in 1988-89 would help to stabilise the price trend. However, even in 1988-89, the upward movement has continued although it has been greatly moderated. Between June 1988 and June 1989, the prices of hank yarn in counts of 20s and 40s increased by 6% and 15% respectively. However, from June 1989 onwards, there is a perceptible declining trend and we are hopeful that this would be further accelerated in the coming months as a result of the initiatives taken by the Government in this regard.

2. Hon'ble Members are aware that Government have announced a scheme for opening yarn depots, particularly in yarn deficit States, through the agency of the National Handloom Development Corporation to make available yarn to weavers at mill-gate prices. I have also taken a meeting of the producers of yarn along with representatives of the State Governments and the House would be happy to know that the response of the industry has been positive and constructive and they have assured me that they will do their utmost to see that firstly the hank yarn obligation is fully met and secondly that the prices of hank yarn show a moderating trend. We have also set up a Standing Monitoring Mechanism to continuously review the position of prices and availability of hank yarn so that the Government is able to take remedial steps whenever necessary. This meeting also revealed that there is no overall shortage of hank yarn and there is only occasional mis-match between demand and supply of certain counts in certain pockets which can be effectively remedied by timely intervention by the National Handloom Development Corporation. Some shortages of hank yarn in counts 2/17s and 2/18s in the southern region were on account of severe power cuts on the mills and these have also been substantially relieved on account of the significant improvement in the power availability. We are keeping a very close watch on the situation and, I can assure the House that we shall spare no efforts to ensure that the legitimate interests of handloom weavers are protected.