

[Sh. K. Mohandas]

tation of the workers who have returned after the termination of their contracts.

[*Translation*]

- (viii) **Demand for implementing the UNDP schemes in order to cope with the drought situation, especially in the Bundelkhand area of U.P.**

SHRI BHISHMA DEV DUBE (Banda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is an agricultural country 80 per cent of the total population depends on agriculture. 90% of the total land is unirrigated and depends on rain. Last year the people faced the severest drought in the 100 years, which proves that excessive dependence on rain is dangerous.

At present, I want to mention the critical situation of Bundelkhand, a drought prone and backward area of Uttar Pradesh, where 80 per cent of the land is still unirrigated, and even in the so called irrigated land irrigation facilities are not available through Government measures. The drought of the last year is a living example of it.

A scheme was prepared under UNDP in 1978 to cope with the drought situation and the problems of irrigation under which ground water was to be brought to the surface by installing tubewells. This ambitious scheme was to be included in the Sixth Five Year Plan. But it has not found a place even in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Under this scheme, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Banda, Allahabad, Banaras and the Mirzapur plateau were to be benefitted. Survey of this place has proved the possibility of huge amount of water available there.

I request the Government to implement the UNDP scheme without any delay.

12.19 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1988-89 —
CONTD.

[*English*]

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES — *CONTD.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Textiles.

SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Deputy Speaker, with reference to the textile policy we will see that there are various aspects. After the new textile policy was announced in 1984-85 we have produced about 1382 million kg of yarn. By 1986-87 it has risen to 1526 million kg but unfortunately in 1988 there is a decline in the production of textile yarn. On the cloth side also though in 1984-85 it was about 1214 million metres, in 1986-87 it has gone up to 1298 metres, but there is also a decline in 1988. If we look at the production of cotton, in 1985-86 we produced 107 lakh bales, but in 1987-88 it has come down to 87 lakh bales. This is a policy matter in which we have to stabilise right from production of cotton up to the mills production because textile is the core of agriculture basic development and create a lot of employment potentialities in this country.

On the side of the textiles, there are three categories — the mills, the handlooms and the powerlooms. the policy of the Government is not properly stabilized. There are lacunae in various measures. The sickness of the mills have increased substantially. In 1985-86, only about seventy mills have been closed. In 1987, it has jumped up to 120 mills and in 1988 it has gone up to 133 mills. The unemployment in the mill sector has gone up from 95,000 workers in 1985 to 1,78,000 workers in 1988. That shows, the Govern-

ment has to review the basic policy and the working of the Textile Industrial Policy. Even if you look at the handloom sector and power loom side, the production has not increased in spite of the various aspects. The reason for this handloom suffering is yarn shortage. We are exporting substantial quantity of yarn and this year 40 million kgs. of yarn will be permitted under exports. But there is a tremendous amount of shortage and the higher price for handloom industry, which is causing a big problem.

The Janata cloth production has shifted more for the handloom sector than the mill sector. That is why, the handloom sector is finding it difficult to cope up with the price margin that is available for them, and they find it difficult to maintain the production because of the shortage of yarn and also the price level.

Coming to the mill side, as I said earlier, the mills are closing year after year and the sickness is increasing year after year. Though we have set the modernisation fund of Rs. 750 crores, so far we have not even utilised Rs. 150 crores. There must be some policy with which the releasing of fund, how it should be done, and the proper methods be adopted to see that these people get considerable lead as early as possible. They can utilise this fund for the modernisation of their mills. Unless we modernise our mills, it will not be possible for us to increase the production, improve the efficiency and to stop the sickness of the industry

There is one more aspect. In N.T.C. Mills, right type of people have not been utilised and its efficiency and production is not up to the mark. I thought NTC can take more mills if they were able to improve the technology efficiency. But there also, we are disappointed.

Coming to the staple fibre industry, though the Government has given some

concessions in excise duty, still we can enhance the production of the various sectors. The smuggling that is going on in this country, I think it is almost very close to Rs. 3000 crores worth of textiles. If you look at the production of Japan, Korea and Taiwan, substantial part of their production are being smuggled to India. The saree production in these countries is substantially much more than what we are producing in this country. The production of sarees in those countries is mainly intended for smuggling to this country. The major source of smuggling is from Hongkong, Singapore and Dubai. If we are able to control this smuggling, and increase the production in this country, then we can not only save Rs. 3000 crores worth of material that is coming to this country, but we can give employment to about four lakhs people in the mill sector or if we produce it in the powerloom sector we can give employment to about six lakhs people, which would give revenue to the Government more than Rs. 1300 crores. Unfortunately, none of these aspects has been properly looked into. Unless the Government take proper action and strengthen this aspect, it is going to be a big problem in this country to create employment potentiality, availability of cloth and the price level.

Of late, you must have been in cotton growing areas, since the price is not properly stabilised, there are many suicides. They find it difficult to maintain the production of cotton because of the unrealistic policy of the Government. Even in spite of the shortage of production, the price realisation is not good. That shows that somewhere something is wrong. And that we will have to see. Even you have permitted import of lot of cotton. At the same time, you have not watched that the price realisation for the cotton growers should be reasonable so that they should sustain. Since cotton is agriculture based, there will be some drought or cyclone and other affects. But you have not considered it proper to have crop insurance

[Sh. B.B. Ramaiah]

for this essential and basic product of this country. These are the various aspects on which I am looking at. You should be able to give the planning in such a way that this agricultural produce is stabilised properly and it should give a reasonable price. You should also control the import of cotton so that these people can survive and sustain. I am not saying that you should not import but the price realisation for the farmer is very important. If you are able to give remunerative prices to the farmers and utilise that for the production of cloth, if there is any shortfall, then only you can import the balance quantity. In fact, our policy should be to increase more production of cotton so that that will not only be used in the mills but we can export it also. Unfortunately, we have not been able to do it. The policy of the Government should be to stabilise the cotton production and increase the production of yarn and the cloth so that we should have export at every level — export cotton, yarn and cloth. That is how you should plan so that we are able to improve our economy and give economic potentiality and stability in the whole policy. Since our policy is not properly planned, sickness is increasing in this sector. In the case of powerloom, various restrictions have been imposed. So you do not know how many powerlooms are registered, how the policy is being implemented and whether the State Governments are entrusted with that policy. If so, whether the Central Government is able to follow the procedure so that they will be able to understand you. If these things are properly planned and the Government takes effective steps, our production will be increased right from the beginning — yarn, cloth and then get back to cloth cotton level.

Coming to staple fibre, we have not been able to stabilise its production. So many other countries are producing staple yarn for supplying to India only. Why do you not increase the production capacity in order

to give more employment and increase the revenues of the country? That is why, all these aspects have to be carefully considered. And a review of the textile policy has to be done frequently. I hope, the Minister will take these things into consideration in the future textile policy.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the New Textile Policy was announced in 1985. If the effect of the New Textile Policy upon the Textile Industry is analysed, we would find that the hopes have not been fulfilled.

Almost every member of this August House has observed that neither the organised Mill Sector nor Powerloom and handloom industries have been benefitted by the New Textile Policy. It appears that the condition of Textile Industry has rather deteriorated since the New Textile Policy was implemented three years ago. The greatest need, today, is to review the New Policy with a view to find out the way in which the loopholes in the policy can be plugged.

I do not have much time to discuss every sector. Thus I would like to confine myself to the Handloom sector. Weavers are facing a great difficulty in getting cotton yarn and silk yarn to meet their requirements. The price of cotton yarn has increased by 20 per cent to 100 per cent. With the price rise, its availability is also becoming difficult. Its reason being the Government's decision to export cotton yarn and cotton. This decision is quite surprising. It is not known on whose suggestion the Government has adopted such a policy which is detrimental to the interest of the weavers. On the one hand, our weavers, who are engaged in the most important occupation after agriculture, becoming unemployed and facing starvation and on the other, cotton and cotton yarn are being exported due to

some or the other reasons. I am at a loss to understand the logic behind it. Rather nobody in the country has been able to understand it. It is a matter of rejoicing that the Government realised its mistake and ultimately decided to stop this export.

Similarly, the Government has sanctioned a quota for yarn manufacturing units—whether they are in private sector or under the NTC and on whom, I do not know, whether Government exercise any control or—not to manufacture Hankyarn for the Handloom sector. What to speak of the Private Sector whose motive is to make profit and even the NTC mills are not manufacturing the required quantity of Hank Yarn. This is because of this reason that the price of yarn has gone up and yarn is not available to the weavers.

Same is the case with the silk yarn. In September, 1987 the price of silk yarn rose to Rs. 1000 per kg. against a normal price of Rs.600 per kg. Despite this increase of Rs.400 per kg. in silk yarn the prices of silk products have not registered any increase. I come from an area near Varanasi, and I am very well aware of the difficulties which the Banaras Textile Industry producing famous silk sarees and other cloth had to face. So much so that the weavers there launched a unique agitation in which 5 lakhs of weavers, instead of criticizing and challenging the Government, just prayed to God to save them from the crisis. It is praiseworthy that the Government has now decided to import silk yarn, but its quantity is not sufficient. Only 20-25 per cent silk yarn is to be imported. On the other side the Central Silk Board has kept a margin of Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 per kg. on silk yarn. Ultimately the price of imported silk yarn will vary from that of indigenous yarn. I have been unable to understand how this crisis will be overcome. So I would request the hon. Minister to pay special attention towards this matter. Weavers of silk yarn as well as that of cotton yarn are in

difficulty. The Handloom Corporation is supposed to provide yarn to the weavers. You can judge its performance from the fact that it provided yarn, cotton or silk, worth Rs. 13 crores only to the whole country. As far as the Handloom Corporations of States are concerned, they are indulging in corrupt practices. They are concerned not with the matter of providing raw material to the weavers but to grab the subsidy amount. Now I want to say about the Janata Dhoties. A large number of weavers are engaged in the manufacturing of the Janata Dhoties. It has been envisaged in the New Policy that Dhoties will be manufactured by handloom weavers and not by mills. The work, which the mills don't like to do, has been given to the weavers. The Government should find out the profit they are making. Though the margin has been raised by 75 paise per meter. Yet they get only Rs. 10 per dhoti and that too when five members of a family work hard to prepare it. Even labourers and coolies earn more than them. Not only that the weavers get only this amount after many months. Janata Dhoties are bought by the Uttar Pradesh Handloom Corporation and the payment for the same is made after four or five months. By then the stock of yarn with weavers is finished and they become unemployed after selling 3 or 4 sarees and thus lose the source of income. I want to invite your attention towards another aspect. Under the New Textile Policy, a law has been passed under which certain varieties of handloom cloth have been reserved for weavers. The powerloom sector and the organised mill sector will now not be able to produce such varieties of cloth. But the powerloom sector and the organised mill sector have been able to get stay orders issued against this provision through the High Court of each State. The Government tried to bring this case in the Supreme Court by giving an application and get it decided, but before any action could be taken the powerloom sector got a stay order issued from the Supreme Court and your reserva-

[Sh. Zainul Basher]

tion policy to protect the handloom weavers under the new law, remained as it is. Now you cannot implement it. I would like to submit through you that some way should be found to execute the reservation policy which has been made for a good cause.

Finally, I would like to submit one more thing under the Textile policy, more attention is being paid towards polyester cloth. In the present Budget, many concessions have been given in respect of the polyester yarn. So I am afraid that the Government's interest in polyester will ruin the entire textile industry, cotton growers and weavers, because the polyester cloth is ten times more durable than the cotton cloth and when it will reach consumers' hands, then the demand for the cotton cloth whether made in the mill, in the powerloom sector or in the handloom sector, will disappear. The Government should, therefore, reconsider it. Our problem is not only to make available durable cloth to the more and more people, but also to see that handloom weavers, the workers working in the organised mills remain employed. We will have to strike a balance between the two situations. So much of undue emphasis on the polyester cloth is very dangerous and the entire textile industry, whether it is in the organised sector, powerloom sector or handloom sector, is facing a crisis. But on the other hand, industrial houses producing polyester are prospering so much that they are leaving the Tatas and Birlas behind. The undue importance being given to polyester yarn and cloth will ruin the entire cloth industry, whether it be silk cloth or cotton cloth. More attention should be paid towards this matter.

In the end, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that we should review the textile policy which was implemented in 1985, on the basis of the experience gained during the last three years. Loopholes and shortcomings should be identified and rectified,

so that the crisis which the people working in any sector of the textile industry are facing, is removed and in future we are able to do something for them.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what has he to do with cloth?

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: There is a big population of weavers in my constituency. I want to put up their problems if you are ready to listen attentively.

Sir, the raw material for cloth is cotton, which is the concern of the Ministry of Agriculture. In the past more cotton was grown but now it has been observed that in Etah, Aligarh, Bulandshahar and Farrukhabad the production of cloth has gone down. When the Government is conducting experiment regarding good seeds and arranging demonstrations, then why is it not doing anything to increase the production of cotton. The main raw material for cloth is cotton and if the production of cotton is less, then the production of cloth will also be less. The Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Textiles, both are present here. I would like to submit that they must coordinate their efforts in such a way that production of cotton is increased. More attention should be paid to it. The cotton growers should be given incentives so that they are able to produce good and more cotton. The second issue relates to weavers. Everyday in the newspapers, we read about the problems. 75 percent of these weavers are facing many problems. They are on second place after the farmers, but due to non availability of yarn, today they are facing a lot of difficulties.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Have you ever seen a handloom?

SHRI MOHD.MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: I have seen everything. I have seen Jabalpur also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJI (Bolpur): And have also seen strange persons of Jabalpur. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MOHD.MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Mr.Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem of weavers is very serious. In Etah district, there is a small township known as Ganjudbarā where there is a large population of both handloom and powerloom weavers, but due to non-availability of yarn, they are facing a lot of difficulty. No thread or yarn is available there. Polyester fibre is, however, available there and good quality cloth is made out of it. So, a centre should be stabilised there to enable the people to buy thread and yarn from there. They are very much in trouble due to non-availability of yarn.

I would like to submit one more point. When Shri Narayan, Datt-Tiwari was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in 1985, he told in a Cabinet meeting that a spinning mill would be set up in Aliganj, but until now, no such mill has been established there. If a spinning mill is opened there, it will be of great use for the weavers. I would like to submit that in Ganjudbarā town a large number of weavers are working on handlooms and powerlooms, so a store should be set up there from where yarn is made available to the weavers on fair rates. The Government's policy of exporting yarn is not justified. First of all needs of the country should be met. I am happy that the Government has now changed its policy and has decided to stop the export. As has been stated, many mills remain closed. It is the monopoly of the mill-owners who close and open their mills according to their will. Due to this, thousands of labourers are thrown out of employment. If you help the small and powerloom owners, then they will replace

the mills. Regarding the yarn, more and more facilities should be provided to the weavers and the handloom policy should also be reviewed. During his Chief Minister-ship in 1985, Shri Tiwari had promised to set up a spinning mill, but the same has not so far been set up. Attention should be paid towards this matter and my suggestions may please be considered.

[English]

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD (Baroda): Sir, everybody has been talking about the textile mills and the textile owners but the basic fact is cotton is produced by the farmer. As per the policy of the Government, it is the duty of the Government to look towards the good will and existence of the farmers, specially the cotton-growing farmers whose lands, specially in Gujarat, are conducive for growing only cotton and if under the new policy, the Government goes in for importing cotton, this will kill the farmers who basically grow cotton.

This year due to drought also, farming conditions have been very bad and with this in mind, a sympathetic approach has to be taken and should be taken by the Government to safeguard the cotton-growing farmers by giving them as much aid and cooperation and help wherever there is source for irrigated water. Water is a very important factor in cotton-growing and I would request the Government that wherever there is water resources, irrigated water, there the Government should come forward now and help the farmers so that when they sow the seeds, the cotton crop will be ready by the coming October season when cotton is sold in the markets and that will also help the Government in stopping the import of cotton.

If the Government goes in for importing cotton, they should remember that the farmer is the man who will suffer it is because of this that I request on behalf of the poor

[Sh. Ranjit Singh Gaekwad]

farmer in this country that the Government should come forward and help the cotton-growing farmer and think only of buying or importing cotton afterwards for the necessary deficit.

This year the cotton has been fairly good and enough cotton has been produced. It is not the fault of the farmers that the textile mills are closed down. Therefore, again, to save the poor man hardship, I request the Government to think again before importing cotton this year.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): Sir, the Textile Policy adopted by the Government shows its approach. It is a reflection of the Government's policy on every aspect. It has been failed miserably. In 185 when the Textile Policy was announced, it was thought that something will take place in the Textiles Sector and Government would be able to bring up certain things and renovate the industry. Instead of that, the experience now shows at the end of the year 1986-87 that the closed mills were to the tune of 75. But now it has increased to 126. In the present budget proposals, the Government has also approached this problem just to help some people whom they thought in their mind. They have never taken the sector as a whole and not suggested any ways and means to improve the conditions of the textile industry. One man was in their mind. That was the Reliance Group and the offer given as tax concession amounts to Rs.236 crores. For the synthetic fibre, when the tax relaxation has been given the amount works out to Rs.236 crores. Whereas, when we look at the problems of the common man who is there either in the field as a cotton-grower or as a weaver in the handloom industry or as a worker in the organised industry, with regard to his problem, the Government has no programme and plan and the textile policy has not envisaged any formula for that purpose.

Sir, next to Agriculture, Textiles is the major area where maximum number of people are employed. The common man's livelihood is this. If we examine not only the previous two years period but the last 58 years, the statistics shows that in 1930, the common man in our country whose per capita income was Rs.50 per year, his per capita consumption of fabrics in this country was 14.5 metres and after 58 years that has reduced to 12 or 13 metres or 14 metres.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): It is not true. It is 15.80 or something like this.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Maybe so. I agree that it is 15.1. In the year 1930, the figure shows that it was 14 metres. Now, it may be 15.1. But after 58 years, if the average use of textile has increased by one metre, what progress we have made for the last 58 years in this spheres? What attention has been paid by the Government in this area? 40 per cent of the people using textiles is below two metres per annum. Two metres of cloth used per annum means two *Langotis* can be made. So, 40 per cent of the common people of this country are having 2 *Langotis*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is more important.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: That is more important. Further, 30 per cent of the people are having less than 9 metres per annum. Another 30 per cent of the people are having more than 18 metres per annum. As a whole, the requirement of the people, the requirement of the industry is in a compact outlook. They have never made anything for the common people. They have made certain concession for certain people whom they have in their mind. For example, take the Reliance Group itself. There is a case. In 1973, what was their position? I have had an occasion to associate with one of the cooperatives which was dealing with

the controlled cloth. I do remember now these people were going round, including the Reliance Group in 1972-73 and all that. They were mere agents making some textile printing and supplying to the Government agencies. Subsequently, they have captured the whole-sale market. We were holding an important position in the international market in Textiles. What is the position today? Today, China and Korea and also other countries have captured the international market. We have reduced or we have kept what we were exporting 15 years ago. It is not because of lack of demand. There is a demand. Garment exported from India is very much needed in the United States, in the European countries and in all other countries. They like our garments.

13.00 hrs.

Once we were dominating the market. Even now Rs.2,000 crores were made available on that contract of garments alone. If the Government have got an outlook about this problem to see the employment for the village people and see that garments are made are properly monitored and exported to our country, it is not a problem to meet other countries which are competing with India in the international market. But unfortunately, they think only about the people with whom they have access. Perhaps, Tripura election was in their mind or some other election was in their mind. If Rs.236 crores concession is given to one industrial house, they could share it for political purposes. It is always this short-sighted method which the Government have followed and it has put down the workers as well as the common people of this country into a very very bad position without having proper amenities for livelihood.

They have not even cared to find out the reasons of why a country which has got the installed capacity of 55 per cent, is not used. The total installed capacity of the textile

industry now is very good, very healthy one. But if you look at the industrial problem, you will see that 55 per cent of the installed capacity is not used for production. This is kept idle. At the same time, a yarn which is to be used for producing textile is being exported. When yarn and cotton seeds are exported, the industry naturally will suffer and you cannot produce 55 per cent. What is the logic behind this? Because of drought, cotton growers have suffered a lot. There is no ample production of cotton to meet the requirement. And at this time, the Government think to import the cotton. They think in terms of exporting to the disadvantage of the industry and when a hue and cry is made by the industrial houses to control this, then they give them licences to import. All these things are happening at the cost of the common man of this country.

If we look at these problem to help these people, then you look at the structure in which it is moving. If you look at the structure in which it is moving, I do not know whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act is applicable in this case. The same man who will be the mill-owner, will be having his son as a broker from cotton dealers. The same man who is a cotton dealer will have his brother-in-law as dealer for yarn. These industrial houses have managed in such a way that the policy which the Government adopts is kept in their own interest. It is not going out of them. They manage to keep it with them very very well. I would like to request the Hon.Minister a study of these things to be made why these cotton brokers are there, why are there yarn brokers? And why the same industrial houses manage the industry and close down industries to the position of 55 per cent of non-utilisation of the installed capacity? If there is a national perspective, if there is an idea for people to get the required cloth and also for the people to get employment. This Government should utilise the entire production capacity available at its command. It is also alarming when

[Sh. Thompan Thomas]
we look at these positions, we see and I quote:

" the number of sick mills increased from 162 in 1985-86 to 186 in 1986-87. The number of closed units increased from 75 by the end of 1986 to 126 by September, 1987. And the outstanding bank credit in the form of term loans for large scale textile units increased from Rs.962 crores in 1985-86 to Rs.1,118 crores in the year 1986-87."

This is the position. Bank money, taxpayer's money, Government's money, all this these big industrial houses take as loans. Then they manipulate the whole area for their own benefit. If you take the history of any industrialist in this matter, you will see that nobody has gone down in any way.

Recently I had an experience in Modinagar. Those factories were closed. About, 30,000 South Indians are working there especially the Tamil and Malayalee population who go there in search of their livelihood. But nobody is seen now. All the Modinagar mills are closed and all the Modinagar textile industries are closed because he himself engineered something there, created a situation by which they would not be there. They all fled away from that place. Now these industries, in the guise of the textile policy adopted by the Government, are converted into engineering units or some other units where new people are appointed. Has the Government interfered in this matter? For the last five years the Modinagar problem was with the Central Government and also with the State Govt. At no point of time the Government has spent any time to see that some effective things are done in Modinagar and the people are employed.

If you look at the payments which have to be made by the employers to the workers

who have left from the place, their provident fund, their gratuity and other dues are still with the management.

The Government provided them Rs.500 crores for making the sick units viable. How much is spent by this time? About Rs.165 crores. For what purposes it is used? Was there a method to see that the people who lost their employment are re-employed there? There were certain suggestions made that 50% to 75% of the wages will be paid, they will be rehabilitated and all that. But we see that altogether about one lakh seventy thousand workers have lost their jobs because of the sickness in these industries. Therefore, my suggestion to the Hon.Minister is that in a combat manner you will have to analyse the whole problem starting from cotton growing, its supply, yarn making and the industries' utilisation as a whole with a perspective of enabling the common man to get it and to have the purchasing power to purchase these things for their utility. That purchasing power is not increased. This is only the story of the textiles.

The Hon.Minister is not only handling textiles, along with that the problems of jute and silk as also of coir yarn are coming in. All these problems are to be handled by his Ministry. I would like to know whether in any of these things monitoring has been done by the Government to see that maximum utilisation is made and the maximum support is given from the common man's angle.

I would come to the handloom sector. In Tamilnadu in Kerala and other areas the village people were having their livelihood by indulging in the handloom activities. The handloom was earmarked under the textile policy for controlled cloth. Now what has happened? For controlled cloth Rs.2 is given as subsidy for a metre. But how much increase is there in the cost of production? Has it been neutralised? We demand neu-

tralisation by way of DA for the industrial workers taking in view the escalation in prices. I would like to ask whether the Rs.2/- fixed three years back is in proportion to the increase in the cost of cotton yarn, colour dyeing etc., when you compare it now. It is nothing. Will the Government consider it?

In fact, if you want to help the handloom sector you should supply yarn and other materials which are required for the production of cloth in a fixed price at a subsidised rate rather than giving Rs.2/- per metre to a middleman and to use these things for amassing wealth on that ground also. The materials should be supplied directly to the people who are engaged in this industry.

I would like to submit many more things. If you look at all these things, you will see that the Government's policy is a reflection of its approach to the common man — a confusion. It is not a policy for the poor people; but a policy for the affluent sections of this community.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, at the outset I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussions on this subject.

In India textile industry is perhaps the oldest and the prestigious industry. It consists of hand-woven, spun and khadi. On the other hand they are having a sophisticated capital intensive high speed operation. So millions of people are dependant on this industry and the industry has been set-up in the most unorganised sector.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam please come near the mike.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Textile industry has played a significant role in this country and mostly it is an export and import oriented industry. In the year 1985

Government announced the textile policy. Various measures have been suggested to see that allround development takes place in the handloom, mill and powerloom sectors. Various measure like supplying of yarn to the consumers, opening up more and more centres for supply of dyes, chemicals and also to give financial assistance to the needy persons have been enumerated in the new textile policy.

Apart from this many training camps have been conducted to update the designing and also some fund has been created for modernisation of the textile industry. Further to overcome the sickness the Ministry has provided a lumpsum amount to assist the sick industries to come out of their sickness and for the industries which are Healthy money has been provided for modernisation.

Inspite of all these measures many of the textile units have become sick. The reasons are not properly known but it has been mentioned in the Report that it is due to out-dated machinery, labour trouble, non-modernisation of the existing machines and so on and so forth. Government has taken over many of the sick units and are running them through NTC and producing the Janata cloth for distribution amongst the poor people. It is quite clear that most of the mills are becoming sick and many labourers are getting unemployed and the problem is very very serious. Therefore, apart from what has been suggested in the new textile policy much has still to be thought over. When I go through the Report I find nothing has been left which we can suggest to overcome the problem but still we find more and more industries are becoming sick. The exact reason has to be found and remedy worked out by the Ministry of Textiles.

Apart from the various measures the Ministry of Textiles has come forward to give financial assistance through IDBI to the mills

[Shrimati Basavarajeswari]
which are being set-up in the cooperative sector. In the Sixth Five Year Plan many such mills were set-up in Maharashtra and Karnataka and production is going to be started in those mills. More people are coming forward to set-up such cooperative spinning mills in Karnataka and Maharashtra.

The whole concept of thinking today is that we have to decentralise more and more industries in the rural areas. More and more people are coming forward in the cooperative sector. They have mobilised huge funds towards share capital. They have approached the Government of India to get the clearance. But we have been told that whatever was to be completed during the Seventh Plan, has already been achieved. So, there is a ban by the Ministry of Textiles, that they are not going to give permission for the new spinning mills which they are going to set up.

They have collected crores and crores of rupees towards share capital. They say that you give us the permission. We don't ask for the money. But we are ready to start. This is one way of giving employment to the rural people. Not only that, we are mobilising money from the farmers. We have to appreciate that while taking up such projects. The whole object is that we are mobilising the money from the farmers, we are setting up agro-based industries in the rural areas and we are giving lot of employment for the rural poor. In this way, the Government should not put a ban. I would request the hon. Minister to convene a meeting immediately with the Agriculture Minister and the Industry Minister - who is rightly concerned - sit with them and try to clear the pending matters.

The spinning mills have to be cleared. One such mill is Hanumanamatti Nullina Sahakar Sangha, Ranebennur. It is pend-

ing since a long time. They have already collected about Rs.30-40 lakhs about five years back and are waiting for the sanction. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister to give an immediate thought and see that whatever is pending - whether it is in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka - should be cleared and also see that proper employment is given to the rural poor.

Another thing, which I would like to emphasise on this subject, is regarding the silk industry. The textile industry includes silk also. As you are already aware, Karnataka is one of the oldest States where much silk is being grown. But after we got the World Bank assistance, much area has been developed. The Central Silk Board is also giving a lot of thought for improving and also enhancing the area in other States like Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and so on and so forth. So, all kinds of assistance is being given to enhance the area and also to produce quality silk in other parts of the country.

In this connection, I would like to say that the Central Silk Board has announced several programmes for the development, like supply of cocoons, putting up sheds and also for controlling the diseases, etc. Apart from that, I would request the hon. Minister to see that the middleman does not import silk from China or from other countries. If such things are encouraged, the farmers will be very much hit. The moment the imports arrive in the country, the prices will slash down and the farmers will be put into a lot of inconvenience. Hence, I would request that if at all it is necessary to import the silk, only the Silk Board should import. Individuals should not be encouraged under any circumstances. I think, the hon. Minister is receiving memoranda after memoranda from the silk growers in various parts of the country. The Karnataka Government is also, every now and then, emphasising that it should be purchased through the Central

Silk Board and it should be distributed among the weavers. But individuals must not be asked to import silk from other countries. The silk industry, as such, is a rural-oriented industry. It benefits mostly the small and marginal farmers in the rural areas. The small and marginal farmers have taken up the cultivation of mulberry crop in a small percentage. Moreover, it is a crop from which they get some money. Therefore, it should be spread over wherever it can be grown. Such schemes should be encouraged by the Central Silk Board. Not only that, there is a devastation of crop when the Uzi fly attack is there. It is a very serious disease. The entire crop was devastated. We could not grow for many years because of that pest. Therefore, certain measures have to be taken to see that such diseases will not come to other parts of the country and precautionary measures should be taken and worked out by the Central Silk Board.

Regarding the Janata cloth, I think the NTC is producing Janata cloth at a controlled price and duty free is also provided but I am afraid how many poor people will get such kind of cloth. How many cooperatives are in a position to bring the cloth to the grassroot level? Many of the cooperative institutions have become defunct. They do not have the working capital to purchase the cloth for which they are entitled to. Therefore, the poor man who is in need of such cloth is not getting it due to the societies becoming defunct. The cloth which you are supplying to various States are of a very very inferior quality. I don't think that a lady can wear that saree. I am ashamed of ladies wearing such sarees and it is difficult for them to go outside. Therefore, the quality should be improved as also the durability of the cloth. We can easily wear for one or two months and the third month, it will become pieces. So, alongwith durability, designs also should be improved. Wherever, we go, each State will produce certain type of sarees. It looks as if they are producing only uniforms and if these

ladies wear them, they look like some guards or staff nurse or something like that. It should not be so. We must give them attractive designs and durable cloth. Therefore, I suggest that whatever cloth you supply, it should be of good quality.

Another point is that at the district level, we have got mobile vans and if we distribute the cloth through weekly mandis, I think the persons at the grass-root level will certainly get the cloth at a cheaper rate. Such schemes should be thought over in future. There is a rebate scheme. Wherever there is a subsidy, we rush to the shops but we find that the prices are increased just two or three days back at 20 to 40 per cent rebate. If we verify the same cloth in another shop, we find that the price is more than what we get in the other shop. These things are happening. I do not know whether it has come to your notice or not. But as a lady I can make out that it is a fact that wherever we go, a very large attraction of 20 to 30 per cent rebate is there but we find that either the cloth is an old one and sometimes it is more costlier than we get from outside. Therefore, we have to see that rebate means that we must get real rebate of whatever percentage we decide. Such things should be looked after.

There is an Advisory Board which looks after so many things and proper representation for the States wherein they grow cotton should be given in this Board. I am very much interested regarding CCI. I come from an area where large cotton growth is there, the Tungabhadra Project because we grow long staple cotton, extra long staple cotton and medium staple cotton there. This CCI comes into the market every year in Raichur and Bellary and purchase huge quantity of cotton from our area but what I find is that the system should be looked into further. But the feeling among the people is that lot of under-dealing are going on in the department and it should be in CCI. There is a percentage fixed and bad quantity is being purchased

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and there is no proper testing machine or proper grading machine. There is no moisture testing machine in the CCI. There are no proper materials for proper grading. In that way, the farmer sometimes loses his price and sometimes the CCI also loses. It is due to so many reasons which I do not want to express on the floor of the House. I think the hon. Minister will understand what I mean to say. Anyhow, the CCI enters the market. There is a harvest for so many people. Only that much I can say.

Sometimes, the CCI after making purchases would not keep cotton properly. It has been hit by fire several times. Mostly it loses a lot of money after it is hit in the hot sun. Proper arrangements should be made for storing and the purchasing should be a little bit improved. The persons who are purchasing at the district level, I do not think, are of that standard; we must have some more qualified people and persons with more status must be given opportunities to purchase cotton.

The CCI purchases not only for NTC and other mills, it even takes up export of cotton also. Under no circumstances, I would request you on the floor of this House, you should import cotton. Our farmers are ready; our land is only meant for cotton growing. It is called black cotton soil. No other crop can be grown except cotton. We are here to grow it, provided you stabilize the prices. Whatever price you are giving for the forty count medium staple cotton today, we were getting that ten years back. You must give us an attractive price. It is a risky crop. For your information, very recently, so many farmers have died because they lost their crop in Andhra Pradesh, in West Godavari and Krishna districts. It is a risky crop. If we get, we will get, otherwise, we will lose totally. Farmer is ready to grow cotton. Under no circumstances, you should import

cotton. It is only some lobby which is working for its import.

I would request the hon. Minister to see that the farmers are protected and the CCI gives much more support price than what is being given today.

With these words, I support the Demands of this Ministry.

[Translation]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Textiles. I am happy that the Ministry has been entrusted to a very capable person who is fully conversant with the plans and the basic requirements of the country. I am fully confident that the Ministry will be able to meet the people's requirements of cloth in the times to come. A welfare State should ensure that basic requirements of the people are met. It should provide food, cloth and shelter to all. Cloth is a basic need of human beings and this industry has been running in our country since time immemorial. Next to agriculture this is the industry where maximum number of people are engaged. Presently there are three kinds of textile industries in our country - they are big mills, powerlooms and handlooms. Since you have given me less time, I shall confine myself to the handloom industry only. Handloom industry is a very important occupation in our country. Though this industry with many variations survives in the area from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Virawal to Arunachal Pradesh, yet the plight of the weavers and other people engaged in this occupation is very pitiable. As you know all there was a time when muslin produced in this country had acquired world wide fame. But gradually this industry has been growing weak. Even today the people like the products of this industry especially Mysore silk, Kota Doria of Rajasthan and woollen garments. There is a good industry of

Mysore Kota doria in my Parliamentary Constituency where artistic and beautiful areas are produced. These areas are liked by every woman in every walk of life, whether they are in India or abroad.

In hot countries, the ready-made garments manufactured by this industry are very much liked. The Kota Doria industry is famous as 'masuria' and is confined to a village called Kaithune. Almost all the residents of that village are weavers and the village is a part of my constituency. The condition of these weavers is very bad. The entire family lives in a temporary hut. I have myself seen with my own eyes that all the members of a family including children and women are engaged in weaving. With much difficulty they are able to complete one saree in 3-4 days which fetches less than Rs. 100/-. An industry of this kind running with such a speed is likely to be ruined in the days to come and the plight of the people engaged in this occupation may become more pitiable. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that this industry should be given incentives and protected from the exploitation of businessmen. What happens is that big businessmen supply the raw material to these people and purchase beautiful and artistic sarees from them at cheap rates. Though a weavers' association called the Rajasthan Handloom Weavers' Association is there, yet it is not giving any protection to these weavers. The association should be directed to provide special protection to the Kota Saree Industry. In this connection I would like to make a special submission that a Government depot should be set up at Kaithune. The depot should supply raw materials such as yarn, silk and golden lace to these people, because they can make very beautiful and artistic designs on sarees. Secondly, these people should be given a rebate of 20 per cent on their finished goods i.e. sarees so that they may not suffer any loss. Thirdly, they must have representation in the Rajasthan Handloom Weavers' Association and at

the all India level. My fourth suggestion is that adequate arrangements should be made to impart them proper training. They have been following the century-old tradition in weaving. Dhaka muslin used to pass through a ring but this saree can pass through a bangle, if not a ring. It is a very good industry and it is necessary to pay special attention to it. Therefore, adequate arrangements should be made to impart training and provide financial assistance to these people.

I would like to make one more submission. The woollen Khadi industry in Rajasthan is in a sound position. Especially Western Rajasthan, Barmer and Jaisalmer are very famous for woollen khadi industry. It is because 40 per cent sheep of Rajasthan are found in these areas and large quantities of wool is being produced there. There is a need to provide more and more incentives to this industry.

I would like to submit further that Akola print is a very common name. There is a place called Akola in Chittorgarh district where prints on sarees are made in natural colours extracted from leaves of trees and not in chemical colours. Sarees and other cloth are being manufactured for the local people at this place. The Weavers' community which is included in the Scheduled Castes in Rajasthan, manufacture rough khadi. This cloth serves as a multi-purpose cloth for the entire rural area. The people of the area use this cloth for drying crops in fields and for spreading on floor for guests. There is a need to give protection to an industry of this kind. This industry could be promoted by imparting special training and supplying raw material to these people.

I have to make one more submission. The silk handloom industry is also more developed in this country. Especially the Kashmir silk and Mysore silk are very famous. But their position is not good. The

[Prof. Nirmala Kumari Shaktawat]
 climate of our country is such in which we can promote sericulture and cotton farming. These two industries will go a long way in further strengthening our economic condition. Efforts should be made to promote sericulture. Our unemployed young men should be encouraged to take up sericulture as a part time work. They can be provided seed and mulberry plants at cheap rates. The climate in Rajasthan is very suitable for growing these plants. This industry must be encouraged.

Carpet Industry can also be developed in this country. Especially people in our North-eastern States are engaged in this industry. If the Government provides incentives to this industry in Mirzapur and Rajasthan, it will develop and change the entire economy of these areas. In Mirzapur small children have been engaged in this industry and they are being treated as bonded labourers. The Government should look into these things also.

Several hon. Members have criticised the New Textile Policy. But I can say that it will yield good results in the long run. Our textile mills which are running on a loss, could be made profitable under this policy. It is hoped that the poor people will take advantage of the special concession granted in regard to polyester yarn. There are some old mills which are incurring losses or are not able to make as much profit as they ought to have. As a result of this our cloth cannot compete in the international market. Because, cloth of other countries is cheaper than our cloth. I sincerely hope that the position of this industry will improve under the able stewardship of Shri Mirdha.

With these words, I support the Demands.

SHRI VJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nal-

anda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the New Textile Policy was announced and implemented three years ago in 1985. It was hoped at that time that with the implementation of this policy the crisis being faced by the textile mills will be removed and the sick mills, the farmers dependent on and the labourers engaged in this industry will be benefited and the cloth will be made available to the common people at reasonable prices. At that time also a lot of discussion took place on this issue and most of the hon. Members had warned the Government that his policy would Foster the inereests of big mill owners and the policy would not help in achieving the objectives set fourth by the Government.

*Now there is no question of holding any debate on this issue. Now the question is of the experience we have gained during these three years. On the basis of this experience the Government should review this policy honestly. From the discussion that has been taking place since yesterday one thing has become clear that the Government has utterly failed in regard to this policy. If we analyse the events that have taken place since the policy was put into practice, we find that in 1985, 70 mills remained closed rendering 94,947 labourers jobless. In June 1986 the number of such mills up to 75 and the number of jobless labourers was 1,13,237. In June, 1987 the number of such mills went up to 120 and the number of labourers was 1,50,000. In September, 1987 the number of closed mills reached 137 and the number of jobless labourers was 1,66,000. Now it is being said that about 137 mills remain closed affecting 1,78,000 labourers. It indicates the impact of Government's policy. Only in Bombay 4 mills have been closed and more are on the verge of closure. These mills are running far below their installed capacity. According to a report received from West Bengal, pressure is being put to denotify the Central Cotton Mill at Howrah under the N.T.C. A new work-schedule has been prepared with effect from 1st April according to which 700 labourers have been retrenched. More

labourers are likely to be retrenched. The Mohini Mill in 24 Parganas district was taken over by the Government in 1983 and 2000 labourers were working in that mill. Pressure was put on the Government which decided to de-notify the mill. The Keshoram Mill of the Birlas has been under lock out since 1987 and efforts are being made to retrench 3000 labourers. The Government is not agreeable to this. All the Unions have demanded a court of enquiry into it. All these things indicate the direction towards which our industry is going. As has been pointed out by my colleagues, all the sections of the textile industry, whether it is the powerlooms, handlooms or mills, are closely linked with the economy of the country. The future of a major part of our country's population, whether they are cotton growers or they are workers in the mills, is linked with this industry and dependent on it. Now-a-days a very peculiar tendency is being seen among the factory owners in the private sector. They do not want that their capital or profit should be utilised for the development or modernisation of these mills. Rather they are interested in setting up other industries from where they can earn more profit. They are on the look of an opportunity to sell the land of the factory. Besides a lot of other things are going on. All these facts indicate that the industry is passing through a crisis. Under these circumstances of negligence and dilemma whether or not to implement the policy, the future of the country has become uncertain. As we have been demanding since long that the need of this hour is this that the textile industry should be nationalised. The Government should take over the industry boldly in the public interest and guarantee its working. Then only the future of the country, of the farmers and of the labourers connected with this industry and supply of cheap cloth to the common people can be guaranteed.

I would like to make one more submission. Recently on 29th February a big demonstration of weavers was held on the lawns of the boat club where attention was focussed on the plight of the weavers which has not changed even after so many years of

independence. The various concessions being given by the Central Government in regard to the Janata sarees and in other matters, do not reach the common weaver. There are proposals to develop handlooms and powerlooms. But the condition of Bihar in this regard is very bad. A large number of weavers are facing starvation. They do not get work. Whatever money is being given to them in the form of subsidy is only shown on paper, sale and purchase of cloth is also shown on paper. In actual practice no production takes place. Rather their dependents are being deceived. A handful of persons running the cooperatives grab their shares. In the dharna staged against the rise in prices of yarn and against the New Textile Policy, their demands were to scrap the New Textile Policy, to reduce the prices of cotton, silk, staple and polyester yarns, dyes and chemicals, to increase the amount of central grant, to give long term loans free of interest which should be Rs.15000/- per handloom and Rs.25.000/- per powerloom, to implement the recommendations of the Shivarman Committee, to write off loans advanced to the weavers, to constitute a high level central committee including representatives of weavers to fix prices, to decentralise all purchases by Government, Semi-Government and State industries, to ban export of cotton yarn, to exempt powerlooms of decentralised sector from excise duty and to make arrangements for manufacture of spare parts of handlooms and powerlooms. What I hope from the Government is that no policy should be made a prestige issue in the national interest. The policies formulated should be reviewed from time to time and it should not be thought that the policy is being criticised keeping in view the party politics. The national policy formulated in the national interest has failed therefore, the Government should reconsider it afresh. It was felt that through handlooms perhaps weavers would not be able to earn enough and that is why handlooms were sought to be replaced by powerlooms. But what is the condition of weavers today? The Government should think over it on permanent and not on causal basis. The moot point is that keeping in view the social changes and

[Sh. Vijoy Kumari Yadav]

development taking place in the country and adoption of new technology how the Government will be able to provide means of livelihood to this large number of weavers and ensure remunerative prices to the cotton growers and silk producers? Thus, there is a need to think over all this and formulate the policies afresh.

[English]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, While expressing my views about the Textiles Demands, I am speaking with a very heavy heart.

I remember that in 1984 when the new Textile Policy had been discussed here, I had opposed it and again on the same ground, I opposed the Textile Policy which was unfortunately accepted by our Government.

After food, if any other Ministry is connected with agriculture, it is textiles. Jute is produced on the land. Cotton is produced on the land. Sericulture is also produced on the land. Wool, of course all the sheep are of herbivorous and not carnivorous, that also grass on land. When you have introduced this new Textile Policy, you have tried to disturb the equilibrium, and that is why we opposed it.

Sir, what type of socialist pattern is this? You want to withdraw the vocation of lakhs of people - nearly thirty million people are working directly or indirectly as cotton growers. You want to withdraw their raw material and give it to a handful of people who will produce synthetic yarn. In case, you cannot produce it, you are even going to import it. What type of socialist pattern is this? Will the hon. Minister explain this to me? I think, it is not socialist pattern. We have absolutely no right to take away this vocation from the hands of the agriculturists. It is in the private sector. If you want to withdraw it, you have to give them some compensation, may not be in the form of money, but in the form of some alternative

crop, which will fetch them the same income under the same agro climatic conditions. If you cannot do it, for heaven sake, you stop the new policy. The relaxation that was given to man made fibre should be withdrawn.

Sir, cotton, after coconut, is one of the useful things that an agriculturist has been producing. It was introduced in India, I think, hardly two hundred years earlier. Raw cotton is used for clothes and cotton seed is used for getting oil. Seven per cent of the oil that we consume in this country is given to us by cotton seed. We are importing about Rs.700 crores worth of oil. out of our total requirement, seven per cent is given to us by cotton seed.

We use the oil cake for cattle. When it is in greater quantity, we use it as fertiliser. The stem or bark, whatever you may call it, is used as fuel in the rural areas. It is also used for roofing. Will you get any other plant like this excepting coconut? Even the coir that you get from coconut is also very useful. Do not forget that you are vitally connected with land. Do not disturb the equilibrium. Otherwise, you will suffer. You may not suffer, but we are bound to suffer.

Sir, in this country we are experimenting with several things. Actually we are experimenting with the lives of the people, which we do not see at this stage. We introduced prohibition. We rehabilitated all those people who were busy with it. In the Gold Control Order also the same thing had happened. And here again you are playing with the lives of the people. Hon'ble Mr. Mirdha, you are a cotton grower. At least you have seen the people growing cotton. I ask you: what right have you to withhold the money that was accruing to the cultivators in Maharashtra? Because of your policy we have suffered. We could not give them Rs.200 per quintal as advance bonus. Maharashtra Government was blamed for it. What wrong have we committed? Do we not have the right to distribute the money that we have collected? The Cotton Grower Corporation in Maharashtra has

collected some money as profit and they wanted to distribute it as bonus to the cultivators. But you objected to it. You sat over it for months together. Ultimately the whole raw cotton went out of Maharashtra. Is this the way you encourage the cotton growers? We have heard about the foreign hand, unseen hand. I personally feel that if any unseen hand is to be felt anywhere, it can only be felt in the Textile Ministry. We do not know what goes wrong. The moment the raw cotton is brought to the market, the prices go down. I had two ginning factories. I know that when the lint goes out of factory, the prices go up because of change of two, three hands. As rightly pointed out by Mr. Thampan Thomas, a mill owner keeps two or three of his relations who work as middle men. They go on selling to each other and increase the prices while selling it to the mills. All these things are going on. Why do you not protect the poor cotton growers and jute growers? You have done the greatest damage to the cotton and jute growers by introducing this policy. Please do not do it hereafter. Since I have come to Parliament, I have seen that we give more importance to things which are not connected with the common man. The Land Acquisition Act was introduced by the Britishers. It was amended by this Government after 95 years. But the Video Piracy Act was enacted within five or six years of the start of piracy. By this way, are we doing justice to the common man who is your voter and their voter? You will have to look into it. That is why, I say, let us be very cautious and more pragmatic in these things.

The relaxation given to man-made fibre should be stopped. At no time, you will be able to compete with the foreigners in man-made fibres. When the Textile Exhibition was held in Moscow I happened to be there. All the garments that were taken there were of cotton only. There is a great demand of cotton fibres. Then why do you want to uproot the cotton and jute growers? Are you in a position to give employment to these people? If not, do not disturb them.

Lastly, Prof. Shumakar has in his book: "Small is beautiful" written about the tendency in the developing countries. He says that the tendency in the developing countries is to show to the world that they are not much behind. So they want more things and better things for urban people and they neglect the rural people to such an extent that their life becomes miserable and they start migrating to cities creating the problem of slums here. Please give a serious thought over this. Do not disturb the rural economy for the sake of your fancy. We are not very much interested in this man-made fibres. So, as a cotton grower, I only caution the Minister not to play with the lives of the cotton growers.

14.00 hrs.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar): 'Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very interesting to note that whenever the Central Government announces any new textile policy, at the very moment, there will be some closures, lock-outs and everything, and so many textile mills will either become sick or will be closed. However, I would like to confine myself only to jute because jute, raw jute and the jute industry are the main sectors in the North-Eastern and the Eastern region, particularly in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. The entire economy of the region depends mainly upon jute.

From jute we earn Rs.300 crores as foreign exchange every year. There are about 40 lakhs jute growers in the country and about 2 1/2 lakh persons are working in the jute mills. Just before the last Assembly elections, the hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, made certain announcements regarding the jute industry. You may take them as an election stunt or a vote-catching slogan. Anyway, the promises made in the Prime Minister's announcement were: (1) Creation of a Rs.150 crores jute modernisation fund; (2) Creation of a Rs.100 crores jute fund to look into the total jute sector, especially the growers' and the workers' interests; (3) Removal of import duty from high technology jute mill machines; and (4)

[Sh. Amar Roy Pradhan]

mandatory use of jute goods in thirteen specified consumer industries. The elections were over, Congress lost the elections, and I think the promises also were lost. If the Minister does not agree with me, let us see what is the fate of those promises which were made by our Prime Minister eighteen months before. If we do *Post Mortem* of these promises, we find that progress of the Rs.150 crores modernisation fund is absolutely unsatisfactory. The hobnobbing between the jute mill owners, the jute barons and the bureaucrats is still going on. I do not know when this entire money will be spent, though it is merely a loan money from the banks.

Regarding the second item, that is, Jute Fund of Rs.100 crores, till today only Rs.eight crores have been spent. Of course, the hon.Minister will say that it is not correct and that Rs.ninety eight crores and fifty lakhs have been spent, because in reply to so many questions he has said so. Out of those Rs.eight crores, Rs.six crores have been spent through Agriculture department and Rs.two crores through JCI, which is an organisation no better than a white elephant. There are 197 JCI units in the entire country and they are helped by 305 cooperative centres. With them en, machinery and money at their disposal, they can purchase not more than one-fourth of the total production. Regarding the raw jute price, I will refer to the data which the hon.Minister has mentioned in reply to so many questions, either in Lok Sabha or in Rajya Sabha. If we take 1965-66 as the base year, with 100 as the base, then the Russian price has increased by 268.3 points and the price of jute packaging materials has increased by 277.4 points. But, at the same time, the raw jute prices increased only by 158.4. This is the tragedy of the jute growers in this country. You are only helping the jute barons.

Now, let us come to the third and fourth promises of the Prime Minister. The Central Government in so many words assured in this House that the mandatory use of jute gunnies would be as follows:

Foodgrains—	100%
Sugar —	100%
Cement —	75%
Fertilizer —	50%

Now, I would like to ask the hon.Minister whether all these Government organisations are using jute bags in the above-mentioned percentage? What would be the reply? I know that the reply to my question would be 'No'. You know that they have to use gunny bags according to the percentage that has been announced here in this House. But they use gunny bags in very very low percentage. Sir, the synthetics lobby is coming up very fast in packaging material. Even the Public Sector undertakings do not care for the Government order regarding the Packaging Act of 1987. They do not care for this Act because synthetics lobby is so powerful. The F.C.I. and the Fertiliser Corporation of India also do not care for the Government promise, not to speak of the Cement industry. Now, Sir, what is the role of the Cement industry in this respect? one report says like this. I quote:

"Cement Industry used to pack about 90% of its cement production in jute bags upto January-March 1985. Due to unfair price competition from synthetic, the share has now come down only to 40% in April-June 1987."

This is the tragedy. You passed the Act but you don't follow it.

14.06 hrs

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI *in the Chair*]

Madam, in this connection, I would like to ask one question. Under the relevant provision of the jute Packaging (compulsory usage in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987, the competent authority have the right to take action against the defaulters. May I know how many cases are there and against

whom action has been taken? May I know how many defaulters have been punished so far? Madam, you were also in this House when I raised this point some time back. The competent authority has the right to take action against the defaulters. I would like to know from you whether your officers or the Commission or any other authorised officer has taken any action against the defaulters so far, against any sugar industry, against the F.C.I. or against the Fertiliser Corporation of India? Can you cite one example that at least one case has been brought to your notice within the period of these 18 months? May I know how many General Managers, Managers or the Managing Directors of the Public Undertakings have been punished so far? I think the reply would be 'No'. Then how will you help the jute industry and the jute growers? I would like to say it categorically that the Central Government is very much interested in killing the jute industry and they are very much interested in encouraging the synthetic industry. I think, the hon. Minister will agree with me if I say that they are encouraging the synthetics industry at the cost of the jute industry. Now, have you taken into account the installed capacity of the jute industry? If you go into it, you will find that the installed capacity upto January 1985, it was 18 lakh tonnes in the case of Jute industry and 2 lakh tonnes in the case of synthetic industry. Additional capacity in the jute industry is negligible and it is about - two lakh tonnes in the case of synthetic industry. Additional registered capacity for jute industry is 'Nil', but in the case of synthetics industry, it was 28 lakh tonnes. Estimated production for 1986-87 was 14 lakh tonnes in the case jute industry and in the case of synthetics industry, it was 1.5 lakh tonnes. The total estimated demand for packaging production at the end of 1989-90, i.e. at the end of the 7th Five Year Plan would be round about 15 to 16 lakh tonnes of jute bags, equivalent to 2.5 lakh tonnes of synthetic bags. It is thus clear that according to the additional installed capacity, the synthetic bag industry is over-licensed and its installed capacity is far beyond the requirement, which is of the order of 28 lakh tonnes. For the jute industry, the licence issued is nil.

Is it not a clear case that you are encouraging synthetic bag industry and not the jute industry. Instead of helping the jute industry, if you provide all help and encouragement to synthetic bag industry, how can the jute industry live?

It is amazing that the Central Government continues to collect high excise duty of Rs.660 per tonne from the jute and at the same time, it shows very much sympathy towards the synthetic industry. In the Budget speech of 1986, on the 28th February 1986, it was announced that the duty would be imposed on the synthetic bags at the rate of 12%. But surprisingly, within a day, i.e. on 1st March, 1986 itself, it was announced that the duty would be withdrawn. Again in the Budget speech of 1987, on the 28th February, 1987, it was announced that on the synthetic bags, duty would be imposed at the rate of 30%. But again within a month, i.e. on 18th March, 1987, it was withdrawn. This shows how you are pro-synthetic industry and neglecting the jute industry. There is a competition between the jute industry and the synthetic industry and the Central Government are telling in so many words in lectures, in election speeches, the Prime Minister is coming to say, "Yes, we are with the jute growers, with the jute industry." But here in the course of your action, you are siding with the synthetic industry.

Finally I would like to say that you are always with the idea to develop the synthetic industry in the country and you are not at all interested to save the jute industry in the country which is already hit by the synthetic industry. You are not at all interested to save the jute growers of our country. The only one warning, I would like to give you from the masses, from the farmers, from the jute growers and from the jute workers: We can endure your brutality but not your hypocrisy. You may say clearly, "Yes, all right, we would like to crush the economy of West Bengal, we will have to crush the economy of Eastern region, by crushing the jute growers, jute production and by crushing the jute mills". Though you come up with so many proposals and suggestions to help the in-

[Sh. Amar Roy Pradhan]
dustry, you are doing nothing in practice. This sort of hypocrisy is dangerous and should be avoided.

[Translation]

*SHRI G.S.BASAVARAJU (Tumkur):
Madam Chairman, I rise to support the demands for grants for the year 1989-89 of the Ministry of Textiles. Several hon. Members have already spoken on these demands. Many of them while speaking went on narrating the problems of their constituencies. I would like to point out the serious problems prevailing in the country as a whole. It may be Karnataka, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh or any other State but the problem of farmers remains the same. The living standard of cotton growers has not improved. Even the new textile policy which was announced on 6th June 1985 by our Govt. did not come to the rescue of the farmers. All the benefits of the new textile policy are being derived by big industrialists, like Tata, Birla, Reliance and others. The bureaucrats help neither the farmers nor the consumers while framing policies. They always favour the big industrialists. Hence it is very essential for the Government to look into this matter with great care and to direct the bureaucrats to frame the plans in such a way as to help the farmers.

While speaking on the demands our hon. Chairperson said about the dealings by the Cotton Corporation of India. It will be a long list if you go on making a note of them. Exploitation of farmers is going on at various stages, like calling for tenders, grading, fixing the market rates etc. I urge upon the hon. Minister to put an end to the exploitation of farmers once for all.

Two years ago the number of sick units under the National Textile Corporation was about 65. Now the number of sick units is more than 125. We have to find out the causes of the sickness of these units. Sometimes it may be due to labour policy or

it may be due to the new textile policy. Even the non availability of raw materials may lead to many units to become sick. For example Devanagere in my State had several units - producing popular cotton clothes. Now There is only one cotton mill which is functioning properly. All other mills are facing various problems of sickness. As was mentioned by my colleague Shri Datta Samant the labour policy is not in favour of labourers. It is in favour of owners and big industrialists. Our Govt. have to look into it and bring suitable changes in our labour policy so as to help the labourers and farmers.

Excise exemption on synthetic fibre is an important factor which has affected the cotton growers. Excise duty on synthetic fibre should have been at least four times more than the present rate. Cotton growers should get subsidy and all other facilities to boost their production.

In Karnataka there are about six spinning mills pending clearance from the Centre. Licences are not being given for the cooperative sector for setting up the mills in the cooperative sectors. Many people including harijans have become members of these cooperative societies. The total investment in each of these societies runs to several lakhs of rupees. Unfortunately they are not getting the clearance. I therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister to direct the concerned authorities to issue licences to such cooperative societies to set up spinning mills. Janata cloth has not maintained its quality. Here also exploitation is taking place on a large scale - All the benefits of this janata cloth are going to the middle man. Neither the producer nor the consumer enjoys the fruits of subsidy on this janata cloth. The quality of this loth should be improved and it should be maintained. Thousands of weavers have become unemployed as they are not getting yarn and dyeing materials. Lack of marketing facilities has aggravated the problems of the weavers.

*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

Rebate scale in the handloom houses is a misnomer. There is no rebate to the producer of the yarn or to the consumer or to the weavers. Hence it is necessary to eliminate the middleman from the handloom house. I suggest that the banners of rebate sales should be removed from the handloom house as there is no rebate for the consumer in reality.

In Doddaballapur thousands of weavers are facing serious problems due to the units falling sick. The Govt. should come to the help of these jobless weavers.

About 85% of our country's silk production comes from my State Karnataka. Karnataka State has received financial assistance of 85 crores of rupees from the World Bank for the development of sericulture. This amount must be used for boosting the production of silk in the State. Unfortunately, money is being spent lavishly on administration. Construction of buildings like Vidhan Sabha and other air conditioned guest houses is being given priority. For transportation the officials mostly use cars and jeeps. Money should not be spent on these items. Such expenditures must be curbed. Money should not be spent on these items. Such expenditures must be curbed. Money should be spent for the growers of mulberry plants by providing wells, and other infrastructural facilities. If the whole money is spent on the farmers I am sure that Karnataka State alone can produce and export silk worth of 500 crores of rupees.

Creation of artificial scarcity of silk and import of silk yarn must be put to an end. This is one of the important steps that the Govt should take to enable the mulberry growers to prosper.

The working of Central Silk Board is not satisfactory. They have to provide marketing facilities to the farmers. There should not be middle men at any stage. In Delhi and in Bangalore the guest houses are being renovated again and again. The Central Silk Board should stop this practice immediately.

The working of Cotton Corporation of India also needs improvement to a large extent. They too should provide proper marketing facilities to the cotton growers.

Jute industry is also an important industry. There is a packaging industry in my area which perhaps the hon. Minister knows. There 20% of plastic is mixed with 80% of jute to manufacture gunny bags.

Smuggling activities should be stopped immediately. Export of different varieties of garments must be encouraged. Russians are very fond of Indian cotton garments. Therefore export of these garments must be boosted.

Madam Chairman I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this vital subject and with these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW(Dum Dum): Madam, I stand to support the Demands of the Textile Ministry. The National Textile Policy was announced in June, 1985. What I understand from my opposition friend's deliberations is that the National Textile Policy which was announced in 1985 has failed. What were the salient feature of the National Textile Policy? The salient features were to make the men-made fibre cheaper, to give incentives and boost to the synthetic fibre so that in future the synthetic fibre will become cheaper and it will reach the consumer, to the poorest of the poor who are the beneficiaries of the country.

Therefore, this new policy which was formulated in 1985 is not only dynamic but it has also brought about a substantial changes on the textile horizon in India. There are certain difficulties and problems in implementing this textile policy which was formulated earlier.

Synthetics are now competing with cotton. These synthetics are getting concession on excise duty. This year, in the

[Sh. Asutosh Law]

Budget, various concessions have been given to the synthetics. May I request the Hon. Minister to see that in spite of enjoying these concessions which have been suggested in the Budget, if the ultimate price of the synthetic is not made cheaper, the whole purpose of giving this concession to the synthetic manufacturers towards the excise duty will be totally defeated.

After the implementation of the National Textile Policy, there is a definite indication of improvement in the textile field. The production has increased since 1985 onwards. Export has risen to a considerable extent. Rate of increase in crop prices has been the minimum - just 2.4 per cent compared to 8 per cent in the case of other consumer articles.

The difficulties which the textile industry in our country is facing is due to the existence of over-capacity on the weaving side. This is one of the most troublesome factors which has created a real bottleneck in the textile industry in India. This over-capacity on the weaving side is also compounded with the rise in the price and fall of the purchasing capacity of the people due to various reasons — one is the unprecedented drought which has caused less purchasing capacity amongst the people.

Whether this national textile policy has become successful or not, whether it has been properly implemented in India or not has to be judged from the results of the latest position in our country in the field of textiles. Obviously, smuggling of foreign textiles in India is creating problems; but the quantum of smuggling of foreign textiles in India is reduced to a considerable extent for the last two years.

The definite sign of improvement in textiles in India will also be evident from the export field. In fact the textile exports have increased from Rs.1097.61 crores to Rs.1789.59 crores within the last two accounting years.

The general condition of the textile industry can be judged by the production figures of yarn and cloth. The total yarn production increased from 1382 million kgs. in 1984-85 to 1526 millions kgs. in 1986-87. This is a clear indication of increase in the production. In the case of cloth, the production has increased from 12014 million metres in 1984-85 to 12988 million metres in 1986-87. Thus, in the case of cloth production also the implementation of the national textile policy has given results which are evident from the figures cited above. Even during the previous year from April to December of 1987-88 the estimated production is 9744 million metres of cloth against the previous year's figure of 9600 million metres for the same period. Therefore, I don't agree with my learned friend's proposition that the national textile policy has totally failed. But what we require today - I would respectfully submit to our Hon. Minister - is that it is no use to give incentives to the synthetics which is the salient feature of our national textile policy; but I would again repeat that the incentives or the concessions given to the synthetics should reach the people of India.

I am covering one more aspect of the textile industry - i.e. jute. I come from the eastern India, from West Bengal. We are faced with jute problems. The Britishers 200 years ago made all these jute mills and have started manufacturing jute; but today we are facing tremendous problems in the jute sector. What I feel is that jute should be segregated from the textile policy and a separate rethinking is required and a definite national jute policy to revive the jute industry should be formulated. Jutes bags have not become out-dated. They are still required for foodgrains and other articles but a number of jute mills are either sick or closed down. A proper survey has to be made and it has to be seen as to what is the exact reason for this sickness and closures. Is it due to any problem between the management and the workers? If not, then the management should be forced to modernise these factories. More than 3 lakh people are out of work. The situation has become very explosive. I request the hon. Minister to take it seriously.

If there is any explosion of unemployment in East India it will also have its effect on the other parts of India. So, this burning question of jute problem has to be solved and a proper policy has to be made, if necessary, on a war footing so that the jute mills are put back on the rails. Today even a big jute mill like Baranagar jute mill employing more than 5000 workers is closed. Therefore, I demand that a separate jute policy for India has to be formulated and immediate action taken to revive jute industry in India otherwise not only 3 lakh workers but more than 10 lakh jute growers will also starve and the result will be disastrous.

With these few words I support the Demand of the Ministry of Textiles.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ(Baramulla): Madam Chairperson textiles is not my subject. So, my intervention will be very brief. I feel textile industry has a very rich future. Despite the criticism of the 1985 textile policy I see a great scope for exports of Indian textiles and employment in this sector.

Today our textiles in certain areas are competing very well with the standards that are available at the International level. I say, there is also hope for the textile industry because of Mr.Mirdha being at the helm of affairs. Let it go on record for once that I see Mr.Mirdha a very balanced and matured Minister. Although I have not heard the speeches from both sides yet I have gone through the synopsis and I find there is lot of room for improvement. Many hon.Members have said that the policy announced in 1985 has failed. I have no reason to disagree with them because I see lot of unemployment around. There is closure of mills. Even when the sick units are closed we feel very much concerned because we cannot afford to see people on the road—side. So this policy of 1985 will have to be reviewed and the hon. Minister is in a better position to review that policy and come forward with suggestions as to how he will improve the conditions in this very big industry. I wish him well.

As I said, I have to be very brief as I have no suggestions. But I want to speak some-

thing about the Jammu and Kashmir State. I would request the hon. Minister that while he formulates the policy for the textile industry, he should not leave out Jammu and Kashmir State. We have no textile industry there. But we have handlooms. He should not forget the shawl. He should not forget the carpet. And he should not forget the silk industry.

Our carpet industry is in a bad shape. Previously, we had very capable persons who got it. There was a rich tradition. But they feel now fatigued because of some people who downgrade the production and because of there being no pucca check. In exports, sometimes they export very good carpets with very bad ones. Therefore, in international markets, our trade has dwindled. There is a great scope for the modernisation of the carpet industry in Jammu and Kashmir State. Carpet is only in Kashmir. So, while I talk of the whole State, he must take care of the whole State. The best artisans in India so far as carpet is concerned, are produced in Mirzapur and other places. Throughout the world, if you want to compete the Iranian carpet, it is in Kashmir and nowhere else in India. So, I request Mr.Mirdha to give his pointed attention to Kashmir carpet. That industry requires to be modernised. He has some idea about it.

Particularly after this carpet industry, he should take care about our silk. You see, the mulberry trees grow without human effort even while you have debris. Supposing that the house is demolished, you have debris there. Because of the moisture in the atmosphere, because of the peculiar atmosphere in Kashmir valley, there will be a mulberry tree without anybody planting the tree or sowing the seed. Therefore, we have the mulberry trees. But still we don't have a viable silk industry. How Mr.Mirdha will organise modernisation of carpet industry, preservation of best skills in *Shahtoos* and shawls and how he will modernise our silk industry, I leave it to him. He has heard many things about the policy announced by the Government of India in June 1985. While he replies to the debate, he must speak some-

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

thing about Jammu and Kashmir State which has a very rich tradition in handlooms, in carpet, in *Pattoo*-making, in shawls, in *Shahtoos*. I can't speak what is the price of a *Shahtoot* now. If there is a real *Shahtoot*, it is not less than a lakh of rupees.

AN HON. MEMBER: One lakh?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Yes. It is very dedicate. You had *Dacca mulmul*. But we have *Shahtoos*. I have never seen it so closely just as *Shahtoot* I could not afford to purchase. But people who know what a *Shahtoot* is, must be purchasing. But *Shahtoot* is drying out. How to preserve that for the people? It may go to museum. But *Shahtoos* must be preserved. So, *Shahtoos* and shawls must be preserved because it is an age-old tradition. But carpet as an industry, as a source of sustenance to thousands of people, must be preserved and modernised. Silk also should be modernised. Kashmir silk should become a standard. How M. Mirdha does it, I will wait for his reply. When he replies, he will kindly mention about the Jammu and Kashmir State.

I invite him. I have that much clout with the Government. I invite him for discussions with the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues and the people who are working in the field. He must organise a seminar particularly on how to preserve our age-old tradition in making shawls and *Shahtoos* and how to modernise carpet and silk industry in Jammu and Kashmir State.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYANARAYAN PANWAR (Ujjain): Madam Chairman, I support the demands in respect of the Ministry of Textiles. After agriculture, textile industry is one in which many people find employment. Cloth in the country is produced by means of three sectors viz. handlooms, powerlooms and mills. I think the most important of these sectors is the handloom in which maximum people find employment and it is also the

ancestral vocation of many who have been carrying on this business for the last so many years. I want to draw the attention of the Government towards their difficulties.

First of all I want to point out that good quality cotton yarn is not available to the weavers at a fair prices. For the last one year when the price of cotton went up, there has been no proportionate price rise in the cloth. This has resulted in closure of handlooms and deterioration in the condition of weavers. Therefore I want to request the hon. Minister to ensure that the farmers get a fair price of cotton and the weavers get cotton at a reasonable price so that maximum weavers are able to get more and more jobs.

Besides, I also want to request that the facilities and rebate in respect of Janata cloth, which are given to weavers are not benefitting them. Even the increase in the price of cloth from Rs. 2 to 2.75 per metre is also not of any help to them. The benefit of this is going to private agencies and master weavers. The private agencies and master weavers who are producing Janata cloth are taking full advantage of it, but the people to whom Government wanted to help have failed to get anything. They are still getting the same remuneration as in the past. The present increase in the price has not helped them in any form. Therefore the hon. Minister should look into this matter.

After this I would like to say something about the training being imparted to weavers. The duration of their training is three months, which is too short a time to learn the skills and produce quality goods. Therefore I request that this period be increased from three months to six months, so that after learning skills properly they are able to produce good quality cloth.

Proper marketing arrangements should be made for those who are producing cloth other than Janata cloth. If it is made compulsory for the Government Departments to buy handloom cloth only, then it will be such an ideal thing which will provide thousands of

weavers with jobs. Therefore I request the hon. Minister to look into this matter.

Recently the Government provided powerlooms to handloom weavers' cooperatives due to which such anomalous situation has been created and the handloom cloth and powerloom cloth are being mixed together. Now the situation is that the looms provided to the co-operative societies are lying idle due to lack of working capital though other facilities have already been given. These looms till date have neither produced cloth nor provided jobs to the people. The time for repaying loans and other assistance has become due and the organisations are finding it difficult to make overdue payments, therefore whenever any scheme is implemented, working capital for it must be provided for its success.

Under the announcement made by the Government for registration of powerlooms, big traders have installed between 40 to 100 looms in their houses and the weavers have been working on one or two powerlooms. Therefore the benefits which the Government wants to give to the weavers do not reach them whereas big traders take full advantage of these facilities. So I request the Government to give these facilities only to those people who have installed 2 to 4 looms. The people who have installed 100 looms each in the name of master weaver should not be given any facility. This will help small weavers.

In cities we find that after every two years 5 to 10 mills are being closed. In NTC, senior officers are recruited speedily and there is no cut in their expenses and their salary ranges from 2 to 5 thousand and they also do not pay attention towards production. This does not provide any encouragement to the workers. Therefore wherever Government has provided money for modernisation of machinery, its monitoring should be ensured, because the private mill-owners take money on the pretext of modernisation out of which 10-20 per cent is utilised in mills and the rest 80 per cent is misappropriated. The Government must exercise control over

this. If the Government gives money for modernisation and exercises control over it then the machinery will definitely make the mill profitable.

In my constituency, Ujjain, there is the Vinod Mill whose cost of cotton yarn is Rs.2 lakh and the cost of wages and other expenses are around Rs.6 lakh. So the expenses shown by mills definitely push up prices and if the cloth is sold at a low price then the mill suffer a loss. Therefore I request the Government to look into this aspect also.

In Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh the Tapti Mill caught fire and had to be closed down. The workers of the mill are now unemployed. The permanent workers of the mill are being helped but temporary workers are completely unemployed. I request the Government to adopt some measure to help temporary workers of the mill in some way or the other so that the unemployed people there get some relief.

In the end I would like to request that the samples and the designs which are prepared in the *Bunkar Seva Kendras*, are not so attractive and good so the organisations willing to use them are unable to do so. In Madhya Pradesh, there is one Bunkar Seva Kendra in Indore and one is in Calcutta, the working of these Kendras, especially of one in Indore is not good. The people visiting that centre are not shown samples and designs for months together. Therefore I especially request, that the organisations interested in getting designs from that centre, should be supplied with good designs for their benefit. In the end I support the demands of this Ministry and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Madam Chairman, I do not want to speak much on the demands of the Ministry of Textiles. I only want to talk about a mill of my constituency. This is famous by the name of the Gaya Cotton Mill. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the condition of the mill. By the way I have

[Sh. Ramashray Prasad Singh] already apprised the hon. Minister of the situation prevailing there. This mill remains closed due to shortage of cotton. Despite closure of the mill the workers continue to draw their wages. With the result this mill is incurring a huge loss. The workers of the mill want that cotton should be made available to them in time so that they are able to produce more and more cloth. It has come to light that the managements of the Public Undertakings under the Government do not work satisfactorily. Therefore the hon. Minister is requested to be more vigilant and strict in this matter.

In regard to the new Textile Policy announced by the Government in Jan. 1985, the Government must have assessed its achievements. This is a thing which we must understand. Once the textile mills of our country occupied an important place in the world but to-day it seems that it is not so. The people are leaving this vocation. The reason for this is that they are earning more profit in other vocations like manufacture of synthetic fabrics, for which Government is also giving many concessions. In addition to this manufacture of cotton cloth is also being cut drastically. The Government must look into all these things.

In the end I request the Government to pay special attention towards the Gaya Cotton Jute Mill so that maximum production can be ensured in the mill and the workers' demands are met. I have only this much to say.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Madam, Chairman, I am really thankful to the hon. Members who have taken part in this debate. The various suggestions that have been given are full of perception and deep perspicacity. What they have said comes, in most cases, from the grassroot experience as peoples' representatives and I can assure them, Sir, through you, that whatever is said here, whatever observations they have

made, would be taken most seriously by our Ministry. I do believe that they will help us in re-appraising our policies and programmes, which we are constantly doing.

Madam, as we all know, Textile industry occupies a very important place in our national economy. It is an agro-based industry. It is a job oriented industry. It is an industry which gives employment to millions of people, from the cotton growers to the retailers. It accounts for 20 per cent of the total industrial production of the country. It accounts for 25 per cent of the country's export. And, therefore, the Government has all along been very greatly concerned about the health and proper functioning of this industry. Madam, the problem arises from the fact that the industry is very complex one and there are varying interests and sometimes even contradictory interests in the same sector as would be apparent from some of the speeches that we have heard in this House right now. We have always all along tried to reconcile these varying, sometimes contradictory, interests in a manner that would be most satisfactory to all and the result has been, as is bound to be, that it has satisfied nobody. It sometimes makes us feel that possibly this is a balanced policy.

15.00 hrs.

DR.DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): It satisfied the big Houses.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: No, not even them. They are folding up. Don't worry. They are the worst sufferers.....(Interruptions) Please keep your calm.

The three broad sectors in this industry are the handlooms and the powerlooms in the unorganised sector and the mills in the organised sector. I will give you the present composition of their contribution to the total cloth production. Handloom sector accounts for 27.2 per cent of cloth production, powerloom sector 49.2 per cent and the mill sector 23.6 per cent.

Now, what should be the parameters for judging the Textile Policy - the 1985 policy about which much has been said? I will give you certain facts and figures which can possibly help us in appraising this policy whether it has worked. There has been an increase in cloth production year after year; there has been increase in the per capita availability of cloth year after year, after the policy is announced; exports are booming at present; and what is most important, employment in an overall manner has increased.

DR.DATTA SAMANT: How?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I will tell you just now. You are concerned with the mill people only. The whole problem of the situation is this. Mill owners and the organised labour have such a hold on the mass media of our country that they seek to create an impression that the whole textile industry is in a crisis. Well, it is not. May be, certain mill sectors might be in difficulty. But the country's cloth needs are being met. And the consumer is benefited the most from the 1985 Policy. The prices are stable. During the period from June 1985 to January 1988, while the general index of wholesale prices rose by 17.1 per cent, prices in the textile sector arose only by 6 per cent. The consumer has the best deal. What more do you want? It is the consumer who is the ultimate arbiter of all our policies. I do not know whether there is any other consumer item in the country in which there has been such a least minimum rise in the price. Just 6 per cent rise from then to now is almost nothing!

DR.DATTA SAMANT: What about concessions to the tune of Rs.200 crores?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: If that helps the consumer, we will do it not once but twice....(*Interruptions*).

So, Madam there has been an increase in the handloom and powerloom production and there has been only a slight or marginal decrease in the mill production.

Now I will mention about the employment aspect. Since the 1985 Policy, employment in handloom sector has gone up by six lakhs, in powerloom by 4.2 lakhs and in the mill sector, I admit, it has come down by 1.8 lakhs. But the total gain on employment front for the nation is 8.4 lakhs in the textile sector.

DR.DATTA SAMANT: These are all hypothetical figures. There is no method of measuring.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: There is a measure for everything (*Interruptions*).

MR.CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: When there is an argument just for argument's sake, this sort of a reaction takes place and I do not mind it. But, there is no rationale or reason in what the hon. member wants to say. We have a full way of computing employment in the powerloom sector and handloom sector. If he has the patience to sit with our experts, we will tell him about it and we are open-minded to do it.

DR.DATTA SAMANT: There is no method of measuring the labour in the unorganised sector. This is the highest forum in the country and hon. Minister should not make such statement.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The highest forum deserves the highest decorum and the hon. member should know that. So from the employment point of view, which is one of the factors in the Policy, it has gained to the point of 8.4 lakhs, if you deduct what the Mill Sector has lost. Is this the picture of industrial crisis? Everyone says mills are closing but no one says, there is an improvement in cloth production and employment in other sectors. So the policy has been very satisfactory. But in spite of all this, we have an open mind and we want to have a discussion on this. So in deference to the wishes of the hon. Members who have doubted about the success of the industry,

[Sh. Ram Niwas Mirdha]

we have decided to appoint an Experts Committee, which will consist of representatives from all interested sectors, to sit down and review how the Textile Policy has worked uptill now. We will see in a very open minded way what the problem really is. We have nothing to hide and we will go on doing this in this particular way.

I was talking about the organised sector. All the speeches made say that don't close mills. Not many members have said, if the mills are closed what do we do with the labour. Our concern is not whether the mills are closed or run but our concern is that if the mills are closed for certain reasons, what do you do with the labour. Their interests are paramount in our minds. Therefore, the Textile Policy clearly says that we will have a special fund for this purpose which will be given to the labour, who have *Pe Force* to leave employment for various reasons, after the mill is closed. We have put certain conditions in that, and that is, the labour rehabilitation fund will only operate. We give 75 per cent of the wages in the first year 50 per cent next year and 25 per cent the year thereafter. This is in addition to whatever the statutory dues are there. This is the Government of India's contribution to the situation. We had put a condition that if the mill declares a lock out, that means the mill is closed for good. From that point onwards, not a single mill have been locked out. In spite of the fact that the labours are without jobs, they are not being able to make use of our special fund-rehabilitation fund. The labour leaders have not been responsible enough to consider the labours' plight and say we declare closure, you please give them relief. They have always been saying(Interruptions).

DR.DATTA SAMANT: He is misleading the House....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Please listen. There is no question of misleading the House. I repeat " the utmost consideration the responsible labour leaders should have is that their first concern should be for the

future of the labour." So they did not get anything from anywhere. The labour leaders can countenance that situation. They would say close mills, unemployed labour, no means to live, but they would not say, please get the Government subsidy or assistance by declaring a formal closure. But now we propose - as Mr.Haroobhai Mehta has suggested - to modify this policy. We will do that. We want to liberalise the scheme by extending it to cover units, where a liquidator has been appointed under the Companies Act. He has come. He has taken the possession of the assets. We won't insist on a formal closure. It was a sort of lack of response to a situation where they should have been more liberal and broad-minded. We have changed our policy. We do not insist and we will not insist on formal closure now. But we will give it, if the mills have gone into liquidation, which means that there is a little possibility of its working again. This is something what we have done. I will take subject-wise as much as I can. Lot has been said about cotton - cotton versus synthetics, We are over soft with the synthetic people and all that. The 1985 policy clearly says that the pre-eminent role of cotton as a main raw material of the textile industry would be maintained. I repeat in all solemnness that this is still our policy that the pre-eminence of cotton as a raw material for textile industry will be maintained at all costs and in all circumstances. There is no denying that. We have taken a number of steps to do it. In 1986 ,82 per cent of the total cloth and yarn were produced in our country through cotton. The amount of cotton used is increasing every year. Mr.Rathod may please note this: it is not going down as a result of our policy. Cotton consumption is increasing gradually, in absolute terms, and the synthetics have not done any harm to this sector. We have given certain concessions in the Budget which, firstly, should be passed on to the consumers, as the Finance Minister assured us. In consultation with the Finance Ministry and the other Ministries concerned, we are having a monitoring mechanism to see how it should be done. Apart from the effect of the new textile concessions being passed on to the consumers, we would see that these

concessions do not act in a manner that they are to the detriment of cotton also. That will be one of the important factors of re-assessing, if necessary, our concessions to the synthetic sector.

The handloom people now want synthetic and blended yarn. So, those who want to increase their markets, capture new markets, the cooperative societies of growers as also weavers, and weavers as a whole are also in favour of this. We have given a lot of concessions to the cooperative societies in the new Budget, for using synthetic yarn etc; and, therefore, we will see that the pre-eminent position of cotton is maintained, and nothing is done to change this.

Not only this; I have taken up with the hon. Minister of Agriculture Mr. Bhajan Lal as also the previous Minister of Agriculture, that we have to have a review about the cotton production policy and programmes. In mid-'70s we were importing long staple cotton, more than Rs.200 crores worth of it. Then, due to Government's policies, contribution of research scientists who developed hybrid seeds, the extension agencies who went to the field, and the brave and innovative farmers who took up the challenge, within a period of 7 or 8 years the whole picture has changed. We are not only meeting our own requirements for long-staple cotton, but we are in a position to export it many times - the yarn and the cotton itself, as we did last year. We do not want this tempo of better and increased production to be lost. So, I am in touch with the hon. Minister of Agriculture as to how to rationalize the various varieties, how to step up research in the cotton side and see that the cotton produced is of good quality, proper grading is done, proper ginning is done, and proper baling is done, and all aspects of the cotton situation are being very systematically dealt with. I can once again assure that synthetics would in no case be able to impinge on this situation.

Shri Uttam Rathod mentioned certain things which are not really true. He mentioned about the Government of India, or the Ministry of Textiles objecting to bonus.

There is no question of the Textile Ministry objecting to bonus. In fact, Maharashtra does not need any permission from Government of India, if they want to give bonus, which they are already doing. They have already given Rs.200; there is no question.

As regards the merit of the Maharashtra monopoly procurement, I do not think this is the occasion when we should go into this, because it is not very relevant here; but one short point which I want to make is that it was not necessary to clear bonus from us. Maharashtra Government and the Federation have now given the bonus. They are at liberty to do it; they can do whatever they like with it. It was only with those quotas that they could declare some bonus. As regards Government of India not helping the Maharashtra federation, it is also not correct. Government of India, particularly the Ministry of Textiles is very much concerned with cotton growers and, their bodies, and particularly the Maharashtra situation is already before us. So is the Gujarat one. We will try to help them in the best manner possible. But even when cotton prices are so high, we are receiving representations and requests from cotton growers' bodies from Maharashtra, Gujarat and other places: 'Please allow exports.' Right here, so many Members have said, those who want to see the interests of the handloom weavers: 'Stop'. What to say of this? They cannot even think of cotton export in a situation like this, which is being very stridently promoted by certain organizations. They say that the high prices of yarn are the result of high cotton prices. Here again there is a dichotomy. Therefore, I would again reiterate that our policy is to reconcile these interests in the best harmonious manner possible, so that the general interests of the country are maintained, all sections of the textile industry will do the work properly and everything goes in a smooth way.

Now I am coming to handloom sector, about which a lot of members showed a lot of interest, and very rightly. Handloom is the largest unorganised sector after agriculture, and it gives employment to millions of

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 people; it is a part of our invaluable national heritage; we inherited this culture from thousands of years of cultural experience and we want to preserve it as an economic proposition, as a cultural proposition. So, from whichever point we might look, we want that the handloom sector should be given all protection. And the various actions that we have taken all along go to show how much we are committed to the welfare of the handloom weavers. In the first plan, the allocation for handloom sector was Rs. 11.10 crores; in the 7th plan, it was Rs. 165.5 crores. It is not much, but we are still trying to get more. But even this is quite a big jump. The number of handlooms has increased; the number of people employed in the handloom sector has increased and we have taken lot of steps to rejuvenate it and give a healthy look to the handloom sector.

One point was mentioned about yarn export and it was pointed out that they are hitting the interest of the handloom weavers. We are allowing the export of yarn. But this year we have authorised the export upto a limit of 40 million kilo in the count group of 1 to 60. This works out to be around 3 per cent of our total production. So, it is not much. Export generates the culture of efficiency. It improves the viability of spinning mills and it has not worked to the detriment of any sector. The high price of yarn is not the result of export, but it is the result of high price of cotton. This year the cotton prices have been very high; they have started coming down now; but they were high from last year and even before that; and we have been trying to see how that could be done. One of the things that we have done was along with our exports to allow advance licensing. In fact, we want to import cotton. They can convert it and export it by way of yarn or of fabrics.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):
 Then why are you allowing its export?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: No, we are not allowing it; not at all, not at all. Last year, we started exporting cotton, but in the midst of season when we saw the prices rising we stopped the export of cotton.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Why do you bother about the farmers? They will get it.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The farmer is getting plenty of it. Only the mill-owner is folding it up and you are supporting him.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: No. That is an unfortunate part. Yesterday I categorically state....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. What can I do? If he is yielding, then you can get up and speak. Why don't you listen to him? No running commentary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: There is no question of misleading the House. I stand by anything that I say. (Interruptions) We have lot of sectors about which I will not go. Lots of objections were taken. Shri Zainul Basher also said something. Something was said about the rebate scheme, there is a lot of leakage and so on. We are reviewing the rebate scheme; not even the rebate scheme but all the schemes that go to benefit the handloom weavers. We are reviewing that. We have set up a study group on this. We have asked an Anand Institute of Rural Technology to carry on the study on that; and when its results come, we will review whether the rebate should be given or some other financial assistance should be given so that handloom weavers benefit.

About the Janata cloth, about its poor quality and the low return, this is meant for weavers of very poor skill; this is not meant to replace the normal working of looms. It is

not compulsory for any one to accept it; it is a choice before them. If they can get high quality because of the skill and other things, and marketing also, they are welcome to do so. But there are some weavers, we have found, who cannot compete with high skill weavers; and they have to be sustained somehow. So, for that sector of weavers, this is a provision we have made. This cloth is very easy to make. It is not very satisfactory, as you, yourself, have mentioned; it is not very lasting, The look is not as good as you wish. But then, it is meant for all not very high skilled people, who can very easily do it, otherwise it would have just gone out of the market. they would have no employment, but for the scheme. What will happen to them? So, this scheme has this particular aim. And we are trying to see that it works.

One more thing, for handlooms and handicrafts. For the first time we have evolved a scheme for drought relief, handloom weavers and artisans. Our country has been going through a serious drought, and we have formulated a scheme in handloom, for example, 2.6 lakh weavers would work for 150 days, that is 39 million days as a part of the drought relief operations. We are in touch with the various State Government and co-operative organisations and handloom corporations as to how this can be made use of. We do not want to compel those skilled people to go in for ordinary works like ordinary canal digging and road making. We want to make use of their skill and this is a scheme which we have evolved for artisans and handloom people.

Now, jute is another sector which is of vital important to our national economy.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: NTC mills you have not mentioned.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Jute is more important than that. I thought you know about it. (*Interruptions*) Try to know about

jute also. Have some sympathy for jute growers, not just for organised labour.

SHRI MURLIDEORA (Bombay South): He has no sympathy for organised labour also.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Jute is very important. (*Interruptions*)

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Now the workers will throw you out. about 125 NTC mills you have not mentioned, you have not done anything. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The sorry fact is that some leaders have become frontmen for mill owners, that is the whole trouble. Mr. Samant, you never talk about growers, you never talk about jute, you never talk about artisans, you never talk about handloom weavers. (*Interruptions*) They are frontmen for mill owners. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat, Dr, Samant. Why do you get up like that? I do not want a running commentary. I have never asked you to get up. Please listen to me. I have not asked you. (*Interruptions*)

DR. DATTA SAMANT: About NTC mills I am asking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you get up like that and interrupt him? Let him complete. He is not yielding.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: You are killing the workers and engaging them in other activities. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Samant, if you go on like this I have to say that nothing is going on record. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: When they talk of mills, I see that some of our

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labour leaders have become frontmen for mill owners.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: What about the RMMS leaders....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have been repeatedly telling you. You do not listen to me. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: And I wonder why the hon. Member is protesting against their plight.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please continue.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Jute is a very important matter. The Prime Minister is specially interested in this. When he announced a package in Calcutta, we are committed to that and we are working on that basis. Rs.150 crores is for modernisation and Rs. 100 crores for a special Jute Development Fund.

A point has been raised that we are not disbursing funds quickly, for modernising growth, or that the expenditure from the fund is slow, or that the disbursal is slow. We do not want to be reckless in distributing money to the mill owners. We want that this money should really make them viable and make them work. We are strict about the proposals that come, we do not want to be in a situation where we give money freely and after a few months they are again on the streets and come and ask for money. We will not squander this money. We have a group of experts who go into the viability, and some financial institutions are involved. If they are sick and if they are viable they are given funds out of this scheme.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Has any progress been made in this regard?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Progress has been made; it is slow, I admit. As I said, unless it is a viable organisation we will not give that money

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What about the development fund?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I am coming to that. This Rs. 100 crores special Development fund is really a special scheme. Rs. 25 crores, that is 25 per cent, has been earmarked for agriculture, which again is not the concern of the Ministry of Textiles. For no other sector has the Textile Ministry given money, for agriculture, or Cooperation except for jute, because we find that not much was being done in this respect. The West Bengal Government, I am sorry to say, over the years have neglected the jute cultivator. They have no agricultural development scheme for jute. They have not strengthened their cooperatives for assisting the jute cultivators. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: They are already there. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Even now, the jute seeds are produced in Maharashtra and not in West Bengal. They have not even created infrastructure for supplying the good seeds, which is a basic input for agriculture. They have not done anything in this respect. Therefore, the Central Government has to step in and give money for agriculture, which is a state subject, and for cooperatives, which is again a state subject. We have given money to the Ministry of agriculture, Government of India also and this money is being used in a very systematic way. I am glad to say that it has made a good start. Apart from this, one of the ideas mentioned, was diversification. (*Interruptions*)

Some figures have been mentioned by hon. Members. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pratap, why don't you listen to the reply? I cannot allow you. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The State Government is slow in acting. That is the problem. They have to take it. Money is with the Ministry of Agriculture. *(Interruptions)* I will again repeat it Madam. It is because of the tardiness of the West Bengal Government, money is not disbursed properly or at a faster rate. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: To whom, they have given the money?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Money given to whom? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat. He is replying. Why don't you hear him properly? Mr. Samant, I do not like it. Mr. Basudeb Acharia, I am on my legs. Don't you listen to me? Please listen to me. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: One at a time please, so that I can reply. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am on my legs. You hear him properly. He is replying to you. Mr. Datta Samant, I do not like your running commentary. Please resume your seat. I am repeating it again and again.

(Interruptions)

DR. DATTA SAMANT: He is misleading the House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The State Government is not to be blamed. He has given money to Mr. Bhajan Lal. For the slow

progress, he is to be blamed. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him reply. Please resume your seat. Mr. Samant, you are unnecessarily getting up and interrupting him. I have been repeating again and again, not to interrupt him. You do not want to hear him. You should hear him properly.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Madam, I am not misleading the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Roypradhan, Please resume your seat. Why do you interrupt him? This is not good. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing goes on record.

*(Interruptions)***

[Dr. Datta Samant Then Left the House]

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Twenty five per cent, as I said, is reserved for agriculture. The State Governments have to make schemes for cooperation as well as for this, which are vetted by the Ministry of Agriculture, and the money is released by us. So, now the schemes have come and we have released the first instalment, and if they can absorb more through the administrative mechanism of agricultural extension and other things, we are prepared to give as much as possible, within these Rs. 25 crores. So, this is what I say. This is a very special scheme made only for jute. This shows our concern for the jute growers.

Now I come to sericulture, about which

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also hon. Members Digvijay Singh and others mentioned. Sericulture is also a very important sector. No one can know better than you and other Members who come from Karnataka...*(Interruptions)*. Forty three thousand villages in the country are producing silk, providing employment to over five million people, most of whom are from backward areas and from weaker sections of the society, like tribals. This what the sericulture does. So, we are committed to promote this as much as possible.

I will come down to Jammu and Kashmir right now about this.. *(Interruptions)*. In Jammu and Kashmir they use lot of silk mostly for carpets and also for other things. But the production of silk is very little. I am personally in touch with the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir suggesting certain changes in the policy so that special efforts could be made for its development. Mulberry, as he says, is grown there. Why? because it is such a rich and vibrant countryside. If they cannot grow mulberry, who else can grow it? So the chief Minister has agreed to certain policy changes and we want to give a big thrust to increasing the production of silk in Jammu and Kashmir and also in other areas.

Production of silk in our country is rising steadily and at present we are producing 9,420 tonnes, out of which 5,00 tonnes is the mulberry variety and the rest is of other varieties. Eighty to ninety per cent of this 8,500 tonnes of mulberry variety comes from Karnataka. That is how they have done, And this is one of the reasons why our hon. friend wanted that we should have another silk office in North India. Well, Southern States—not Karnataka, I am sorry to say—account for eighty to ninety per cent of mulberry production, but the Northern States, I am sorry to say, have not taken it up seriously...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Except West Bengal.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: To some extent. We have special schemes for West Bengal also in this respect the Malda intensive Development Scheme and other schemes also. Take U.P. for example. It consumes more than two thousand tonnes in just Banaras and they produce only 23 tonnes in the whole State. We have been after them. I personally went twice to Lucknow, met the Chief Minister and requested him to please designate some Director of silk, to whom we can talk, who can at least make a scheme and send it to us for projection to World bank or for our own financing. After all, we have succeeded. Some body is in position. But the scheme is yet to come. So, we are with them. This is just one typical way. In Rajasthan Mr. Viridhi Chander Jain might be interested to know—we have started a scheme in tribal areas of Banswara and other places. Universities are also involved, the voluntary organisation of Vidyapeeth is also involved. So, every assistance is being taken to see that this is developed and every thing goes on in a proper way. We have a big World Bank scheme and we will see that every-thing is done to promote this. Productivity is also increasing gradually.

Central silk Board is actually a statutory body entrusted with the responsibility of research and development and some extension work. they have research organisations in Dehradun and in other parts of the country which help them. But basically, unless the state Government are geared to take assistance from the Central silk Board, having a separate office in the Northern Zone or removing 'X' or displacing 'Y' would not help. So, I would urge upon the hon. Members to take up with their respective State Governments this very valid scheme. Almost any area can grow mulberry. All over the forests can grow a certain type of silk.

The tribals can do it. Poorest of the poor are employed in it. It is a very fine area where employment can be given. I am sure this will catch on and on and the hon. Members would assist us in that. Here also, the problem arises between the silk growers and the silk weavers, whether they are of power-looms or of handlooms. Prices went up pretty high, again because of scarcity. The import of 2000 tonnes every year from China and other sources is done. But this year, the supply from china has not been as much as before. We are in touch with them and we have authorised import of one hundred tonnes, not through the intermediaries—it is a centralised one—but through the Central Silk Board. It has been mentioned that only through the private people the import is done. It is not going to be through private people. 24 tonnes have already arrived. We are in touch with the Chinese Government to release more of it and as a result of it—a small import of it prices have already started coming down. We do not want to depress the prices. It is not our aim at all. But they should be reasonable so that the producers get something and handloom people are also benefited to some extent. It was mentioned that the Central Silk Board is making profit. it is not correct.

SHRI JAINUL BASHER: The Central Silk Board is charging Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 per kg.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: It is not correct, Sir. I am saying that they have been asked to charge on no cost basis plus some charges for strage, etc. They are not making even a pie out of it as profit.

AN HON. MEMBER: The price should not be at par with the market price.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: You can sit with us and see at what price we have imported it and what are the costs that we have put on this and then tell us whether it is

reasonable or not. It is still better than the local prices. But if the local prices start falling, we cannot keep the differential much high because we have to pay certain money for importing that. So, they are very much conscious of this and we will see that it also goes through. Before I end, I will say something about the handicrafts.

Sir, Mr. Soz mentioned about carpet and other things. That is another area of our traditional crafts which give employment to a very large number of people. Our calculation is that 34 lakh people get employment in the handicrafts and the total-turn over is Rs. 5900 crores. Again, poor backward people and minorities are benefited. We want that this sector should be strengthened. Now, Sir we have drought relief scheme for handicraft artisans. About the training programme, there are a large number of carpet training centres in Kashmir. Actually, they have much more than what they need. in marketing we give them assistance; In export we give assistance in designing and technical development, we also give them assistance. So, all these programmes are there.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: What about clearing and marketing ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: For marketing also we give it to the state corporation for renovation of emporia, for market promotion, publicity abroad and all sorts of things. If the hon. Member takes more interest in this rather than neglecting it, it will definitely be helpful. Mr. Virdhi Chander Jain knows about it that in the heart of the deserts in Barmer and Jaisalmer, they have started carpet training centres and it has caught so well that it gives employment to a lot of people and this is a very good employment oriented sector and skills of the people could be made use of. So, Sir, I would again thank the hon. Members for taking part in this debate, giving us the benefit of their advice and I assure them that whatever they have

[Sh. Ram Niwas Mirdha] said will receive the most earnest consideration.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: After the enactment of the Act for compulsory use of jute materials, I would like to know whether there is any increase in the use of jute packages or jute bags by the organisations for which the law was meant.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, Mr. Amar Roypradhan also asked about this point. He asked: what about the reservation order? This order was passed that for foodgrains materials, 100% packaging should be in jute bags, for cement, it should be 75% and for fertiliser, it should be 50%. But there have been some difficulties in imposing this rule. The Fertiliser Corporation of India had mentioned to me when I personally discussed with their executives. They said that they had some previous stocks. Now, they are catching upon this and they have assured us that the percentage would be achieved by them at the earliest possible time. We are monitoring it unit by unit. We are making the users and others in various parts of the country to follow this rule and we are determined to see that this reservation order is fully implemented to the benefit of the jute growers.

Another thing is that in some context, there were cases all over and we requested the Supreme Court again to intervene and

get them at one place so that they could dispose of them early and that is being done. We are pursuing it very seriously. The best legal advice that is available to us is being used for getting relief from the Supreme Court and I am sure that it will be implemented in a most serious manner.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Banatwalla has moved cut motions 1 to 5. So I shall now put the cut motions to the vote of the House.

Cut Motion Nos. 1 to 5 and Negatived

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Demand for Grant relating to the ministry of Textiles to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1989, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No 72 relating to the Ministry of Textiles."

The motion was adopted.

Demand for grant, 1988-89 in respect of the Ministry of Textiles voted by Lok Sabh.

No. of demand	Name of demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account voted by the House on 8th March 1988		Amount of Demand for Grant	
		Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
72	Ministry of Textiles	87,26,00,000	47,95,00,000	436,28,00,000	239,76,00,000