

great emphasis on the promotion of women's education in the New Education Policy. As a part of the programme to promote education among the boys and girls, Navodaya Schools are being set up in different States and one Navodaya School is proposed to be set up in every district. Students are taking keen interest in getting education in such schools. But it is observed that the girl students are proportionately less than the boy students in such schools. There are many factors responsible for the low rate of enrolment of girl students in Navodaya Schools. Firstly, the seats are not reserved for girl students. Secondly all the Navodaya Schools do not have hostel facility for girl students. In the absence of hostel facility they do not want to take admission in Navodaya Schools. This is the situation throughout the country. So, the girl students will be deprived of getting education in Navodaya Schools if the present situation continues. As such, I urge upon the Govt to take the following steps in order to promote girls education in Navodaya Schools:-

- (1) Every Navodaya School should reserve 50% of total seats for girl students
- (2) Girl's hostel should be constructed in each Navodaya School
- (3) Staff quarters or hostel accommodation should be provided to the lady teachers employed in Navodaya Schools

[Translation]

(II) Demand for abolishing cess on hand-made blankets

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN (Kairana) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I give the following notice under Rule 377.

I want to draw the attention of the Government to the plight of poor blanket weavers of Gangeru town in my constituency. These poor weavers get raw wool from nearby State. Their families convert it into threads and weave it into rough blankets which are very cheap and mostly purchased by the poor. It is sad that thousands of rupees are collected from them by way of tax on the border for that raw wool. I think there is no such tax on raw cotton.

Therefore, I urge the Government that the cess being charged from the poor weavers should be abolished so that they can make their both ends meet.

(iii) Demand for Central Government's directive to all State Governments to discontinue 'Zero Budget' system.

SHRI S.S. BHOYE (Melegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

The Central Government has directed all the State Governments to follow 'Zero Budget' system so that cut in Government expenditure could be effected and more development of States could be ensured. Many States particularly the Maharashtra Government, have taken a lead in the matter and it has banned all new recruitment in Government offices. Besides, orders have been issued to retrench the employees who have been working for the last 3-4 years. The Agriculture Ministry has closed down many departments like Soil Conservation Department which has rendered thousands of employees jobless. Services of many PWD engineers have been terminated.

If this continues an army of educated unemployed will be created and it will become a constant headache for the Government. I therefore, urge the Government to instruct the State to discontinue 'Zero Budget' system and also to reinstate the retrenched employees. Besides, the new recruitment should also continue.