

rural district. Here Tharu (Scheduled Tribe) people live in large numbers. The Central Government is requested to approve the setting up of a T.V. Tower in Gonda at the earliest.

- (iv) Need to provide necessary facilities to the people engaged in carpet making in Mirzapur and Bhadoi areas of Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise this matter under Rule 377. In Uttar Pradesh, Mirzapur-Bhadoi area is a carpet producing and carpet exporting area. In this area, every year on an average about Rs. 200 crores worth of carpets are woven by hand and exported to western countries. We earn sufficient foreign exchange from these exports. Nearly six lakh poor people living in villages and townships get their livelihood. In this area in about 70% of the townships and towns and in about 75% of villages carpet weaving work is done. Carpet industry is a cottage and village industry.

This is an export-oriented and employment-oriented industry of this area. To encourage this industry its all-round development is extremely necessary. But this area is not being supplied with the required power, fuel, roads, medical, educational and other facilities.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to encourage the carpet producing industry in the Mirzapur-Bhadoi area. For this purpose assistance may be given to this area under the special development programme. All appropriate facilities be provided, so that carpet production in this area can be increased to the maximum.

[English]

- (v) Need to withdraw orders banning booking and unloading of goods on Railway Stations situated at a distance of 25 Kms. from transshipment points on various Zonal Railways.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Sir, recently the Railway Board has issued

a circular that the railway stations situated within 25 kilometres from a transshipment railway station, cannot book or unload any goods, either of perishable or general nature, causing innumerable difficulties and huge losses to all sections of people including farmers, businessmen and industrialists. Many chambers of commerce from various parts of the country have represented to the concerned Railway authorities as well as to the Ministry to withdraw this restriction but no order to withdraw this restriction has yet been issued. This unreasonable restriction is not only resulting in loss to Railways but is also helping in the rise in prices of various commodities, including essential commodities.

I, therefore, request the hon. Railway Minister to withdraw the orders.

- (vi) Need to clear the dues by National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Ltd. to different handloom societies.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Sir, the National Federation of Industrial Cooperatives Ltd. - the National level Apex Body - a sponsored organisation of the Ministry of Industry - a promotional organisation for marketing the products of artisans, has not paid more than Rs. 27 lakhs payable to different Handloom Societies of West Bengal including one apex Society of West Bengal causing joblessness of few thousand artisans.

The elected Board of NFIC was superseded by instituting legal proceedings against all the elected Directors. The Federation has lost the export market in USSR and that has gone in the hands of private traders.

Internal marketing has also lost all its ground and the Federation is running with court cases, litigations etc. but without any business. Ministry has not come forward to revive the Federation.

I urge upon the Minister to take immediate steps for clearing the dues of NFIC to the different Handloom Societies and help them survive.