

(ii) **Need to reduce excise duty on synthetic yarn**

SHRI S. G. GHOLAP (Thane) : The new textile policy has promised deduction in excise duty on all synthetic fibres and yarns but as per the notification issued in September 1985, the Government has reduced the duty on polyester fibre only which is largely a raw material of the organised mills while there has been no similar reduction in excise duty on synthetic yarn (like Nylon yarn polyester yarn) which is largely the raw material of the powerloom sector.

It is also a fact that smuggling of synthetic fibres is reportedly going on in the country on a large scale because excise duty on the necessary material is very high and therefore, the cost of our synthetic fabrics is unduly high. If, therefore, duty on synthetic yarn is brought down as demanded by the powerloom sector, smuggling will automatically drop.

Maharashtra has the largest number of powerlooms in the country where five lakhs of weavers are working. Hence the matter is of vital importance to the State of Maharashtra. Therefore, it is requested that the Government should look into the matter immediately and take appropriate action to help the powerloom sector.

[*ranslation*]

(iii) **Need to provide residential plots to Harijans in Rajasthan, specially in Sriganganagar district.**

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Rural Development Authority is not implementing properly the different schemes covered under the Special Component Plan formulated for the Harijans in Sriganganagar district of Rajasthan.

Under the Special Component Plan, the unemployed Harijan graduates, post-graduates and other educated unemployed persons are neither being provided loans by the banks nor are they being provided grants properly for self-employment. Consequently, the educated unemployed Harijans have become disappointed. This disappointment leads to lack of interest among other Harijan students

about continuing their studies. The atmosphere thus created brings impediments in the education of all the Harijan students.

The Harijans have not at all been allotted residential plots in the rural areas which has created serious residential problem. It has become imperative to allot residential plots in the urban areas in proportion to their population.

In the 20-Point Programme of the Rajasthan Government, there is a scheme to provide a dwelling unit to the poor, but there is not being implemented in a proper way.

I would, therefore, draw the attention of the Government through the Ministry of Welfare of the Government of India that special arrangement should be made to make available residential plots in the rural areas to the poor Harijans. Alongwith it, the unemployed educated Harijans in addition to Government jobs, should be provided funds for self-employment under Special Component Plan.

(iv) **Demand for taking necessary steps to stop smuggling of wood from forests of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.**

SHRI JHUIHAR SINGH (Jhalawar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after years of publicity by the Government, a feeling of awareness among the people about environment has arisen and even in the villages some people have come forward and take interest in checking the soil erosion and increasing afforestation. It is necessary to continue to encourage this tendency.

On the border of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, in Chhabra, Chhipa Barod, Kishanganj Shahabad tehsils of Kota district and Manoharthana tehsil of Jhalawar district, there was once a large forest which has been ravaged by the smugglers due to callousness and collusion of the Forest Department. In Gugor area in the remaining forest, teak trees are being illegally felled and after being sawn in Chhipa Barod area, are being sent to Bombay for sale via Beenaganj (M P.). Fake bills for wood are got prepared from the Forest Department of Madhya Pradesh. In this way, the smuggled wood reaches Bombay very easily. Thus smuggling of wood is going on without any check on Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan border,