

constituted in 1981 and the report was also submitted to the Government in 1985. But no action has been taken in this regard so far.

People of western region of Uttar Pradesh have to go to Allahabad in connection with their case which involves lot of expenditure and time and is also inconvenient to them. Keeping all these factors in view the demand for setting up a Bench of High Court at Meerut in Western Uttar Pradesh was made. Meerut has a special historical significance from the point of view of the independence movement of 1857 and Mahabharat period. The Central Government had also assured in Lok Sabha on 21.7.1986 to set up a divisional Bench there.

Therefore, I would request the Central Government to take an immediate action with regard to the setting up of a Bench of High Court in Meerut.

**(vi) Need to give Autonomous Hill Council Status to Laddakh Region of J & K and Provide Other Facilities for its Around Development**

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roesra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently, I had been to Leh. Even though Leh is a part of Jammu & Kashmir, it is a completely peaceful area. The Central Government had announced on 9th October, 1993 that Leh-Laddakh would be given the status of autonomous hill Council. But the assurance has not been fulfilled so far, due to which there is a wide spread resentment among the people of that region. Earlier, the people of that region, were exempted from income tax. But from 1989, the Income Tax has again been imposed on them.

Tourism is the main source of livelihood for the people of Laddakh. Earlier in 1992-93 there were 16 Air flights per week for Laddakh, which have since been reduced to only four in a week. The Leh-Laddakh region was assured to be declared as a Scheduled Tribal area in 1989, but that assurance has not been implemented so far.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Central Government to give a status of Autonomous Hill Council to Laddakh immediately, exempt the people from income-tax, increase the air-trips, withdrew the increase made in the air-fare, give Leh-Laddakh a status of Scheduled tribe area and include the Argon Community in Scheduled Castes.

**(vii) Need to provide more Funds to State Government of Andhra Pradesh to mitigate the grievances of Weavers in the State**

[English]

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO (Bapatla): Sir, the Centre's aid and assistance meant for the weavers have not been fully implemented with the result that there is great resentment among weavers of Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh Weavers United Front and Backward Classes Action Council has decided to call on a convention of the Backward Classes and organise a *bandh* to express their protest.

I therefore, request the Union Government to consider sympathetically the Andhra weavers' case and provide sufficient funds to mitigate their grievances in time.