

[Shri Janardhana Poojary]

On August 19, three air hostesses of Indian Airlines were going to the Airport at 4 A.M. for the early morning flight duty. Suddenly four men blocked Indian Airlines car and one of the dacoits held a dagger to the throat of the driver while the three others molested the women, snatched away their watches, handbags, identity cards and other belongings.

The crew with torn blouses and jittered nerves, landed at the Biliaghata Police Station and were promptly told that the incident occurred in the jurisdiction of another police station. The cops even refused to record their statement or alert the police headquarters.

The Indian Airlines airport crew went on a lightning strike demanding adequate police protection for the crew members.

The Director of the Calcutta Airport is concerned about such attacks but there is little that he can do.

Indian Airlines which is run by the Central Government find it difficult to get protection for its crew and to the passengers and the Central Government cannot be a silent spectators. It is the duty of the State Government to give protection. Hence I call upon the Central Government to take immediate action to protect the lives and the property of the Indian Airlines at Calcutta Airport and the vicinity of the Airport by calling explanation from the State Government for its failure.

15.00 hrs

(iii) NEED TO PRESERVE ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN ORISSA.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH (Bhadrak):
Built in 13th century A.D. the Sun

Temple at Konark in its present form is in need of the best conservation measures so that this master-piece of art which is an integral part of our heritage continues to inspire posterity.

The Archaeological Survey of India under whose care the temple has been placed have confirmed that there have been some instances of accumulation of water in the premises of the temple. Permanent arrangements for drainage of water will have to be made immediately. There is also the need for immediate beautification of the environment of the temple by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Bhubaneswar has one of the heaviest concentrations of temples each of which vie with the other for its architectural exclusiveness. Besides the Sun Temple at Konark, the Temple of the Lord Jagannath at Puri, Buddhist sculptures at Udavagiri Lalitagiri and Ratnagiri and large number of other ancient monuments in the State call for adequate arrangements within the State which would ensure their proper preservation. Apart from routine maintenance, some of these monuments call for massive preservation efforts for which constant attention of senior functionaries of the Archaeological Survey of India is unavoidable. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to create a separate archaeological circle in the State, the decision on which has been pending for long.

(iv) NEED TO SOLVE THE DIFFICULTIES BEING FACED BY HANDLOOM WEAVERS OF WEST BENGAL.

SHRI R. P. DAS (Krishnagar):
Sir, despite the fact that the coverage of handloom weavers by cooperatives has risen from 15% to 35% in West Bengal in the course of the last four years with its 2,12,000 looms, it faces several impediments some of which seem to be deterrent to its very survival. Firstly, the

biggest of the constraints is the textile policy resolution of 1981 which says 50% of the total controlled cloth i.e., 350 million Sq. Metres will go to the handloom sector and the rest to the mills. Since there is an element of subsidy per unit of controlled cloth, the production of such cloth has now become an integral part of the handloom development programme. But, Sir, if only 350 million Sq. Metres are apportioned amongst all the handloom producing States, the share of each will be quite small and the states like West Bengal will have no alternative but, to put a halt to this fast developing industry. It may be further pointed out, Sir, that the subsidy per unit of controlled cloth being higher for the mills than the handlooms, it is financially sound for the Government to allocate the entire share to the handloom sector in a phased manner. This may boost both the handloom industry and the production, both sides being diversified and decentralised. Secondly, the continuous expansion of powerloom industry has posed a serious threat to the development of the handloom sector. Sir, due to the modernisation of the NTC mills as well as many other private-owned mills, a large number of scrapped old power looms are being sold in the market which find their way to the setting up of unauthorised powerloom units in different States.

This unauthorised and unplanned growth of the powerloom units has become a great impediment to the organic growth of the handloom industry. Therefore, further expansion of unplanned and unauthorised powerlooms should be discouraged."

Thirdly, Sir, non-availability of yarn at a reasonable price is a major constraint to the development of the handloom sector. Therefore, a scheme should be evolved for supply of yarn at controlled price through the APEX Handloom Co-operative Societies and the State Handloom Corporations.

Lastly, the list of items now reserved for handlooms requires to be re-examined, as the handloom industry of today is vastly capable of producing a wider range of fabrics than it could produce before.

I urge upon the Minister concerned to make a statement in the House in this regard.

(v) NEED TO REDRESS THE GRIEVANCES OF RESIDENTS OF AZIZ NAGAR IN TAMIL NADU.

SHRI K. ARJUNAN (Dharmapuri): The Neyveli Lignite Corporation planned to acquire 1880 hectares including 680 hectares of Poramboka lands covering Aziznagar, a settlement of criminal tribes area which came into being as early as 1911. These criminal tribes were rehabilitated and were given pattas for about 1,370 acres conditionally of which 528 acres have been acquired for the second mine cut by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

These people of Aziznagar who are displaced persons have not been paid any money by way of compensation so far. These deprived persons are evicted from cultivable lands and they are in the streets today which will definitely push them to the same old unruly activities as they were before rehabilitation.

The following points are to be met immediately relating to the grievances of the Aziznagar people :—

(1) The residents should be given right compensation at rates admissible for bonafide landholders in the surrounding areas. The State Government's ex-gratia payment of Rs. 500/- will never solve the problem of the displaced persons.

(2) They should be given rehabilitation benefits such as alternative cultivable sites, a well-laid out settlement with campus amenities and