

pitiable due to want of market for their produce, financial, technical and other facilities.

The reluctance to purchase the Handloom cloth of Bihar at the State level by the All India handloom Fabrics Marketing Society is posing a lot of difficulties.

There is no design centre in Bihar to provide them new designs to match the changing requirements of markets demands.

The small weavers have to look to Calcutta for the purpose of processing of their products which is adversely affecting further growth of such industries in the rural areas. The establishment of a central processing unit would increase the income of the weavers more than two-fold.

Bihar has only 2 weavers' service centres namely, Madhubani and Bhagalpur. At least three more service centres at places having high concentration of weavers, namely, Biharsharif, Siwan and Ranchi, should be opened without any delay.

Opening of National Handloom Development Corporation either at Nalanda or Patna is also essential for the benefit of the poor weaver community of the State.

I urge upon the Government to take positive action in the above matters.

- (iv) Need to stop Sabarmati Express at Sarangpur and Ruthiai in Madhya Pradesh

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh) : Under Rule 377, I make the following statement :

I congratulate the Railway Minister for having sanctioned the running of Sabarmati Express on Guna-Maksi Line in M.P.

This Sabarmati Express 165 Up-166 DN, is running as a passenger train

between Jhansi and Nagda. It was supposed to run as a fast train between Maksi and Beena. But the stoppages now given are Shajapur (District HQ), Bitora (Rajgarh Distt.), Guna (Distt. HQ) and also at Ashok Nagar and Mungavali both in Guna District, making it again a passenger train between Guna and Beena. This has resulted in hurting the feelings of Rajgarh Constituency people who belong to under developed area. Again there is public agitation in Rajgarh Constituency, and they are now demanding at least 2 stoppages, one at Sarangpur—a fast developing industrial town and at Ruthiai a Rajasthan M.P. junction on Guna-Maksi line. The proposed National Fertilizers Ltd., a major project of Gas-based Fertilizer Factory is coming at Vijaypur near Ruthiai. Besides, there is vast passenger traffic at Ruthiai for Gujarat—Rajasthan and M.P. who wish to reach religious places like Varanasi, Ujjain, Dwarka, Somnath etc. from Ruthiai. It is clear that the stoppages at short distance at Ashok Nagar and Mungavali were sanctioned under political pressure. This has resulted in the public demand for stoppage on more important and viable stations like Sarangpur and Ruthiai. Since the Sabarmati Express is now almost a passenger, there is all the logic in keeping two stoppages more at Sarangpur and Ruthiai. Shajapur to Bitora to Guna is almost 100 kms. distance. While Guna to Ashok Nagar to Mungavali to Beena is only 35 Kms, distance from each other.

The public of Rajgarh District are now preparing for Satyagraha and agitation to make Sabarmati Express stop at Sarangpur and Ruthiai.

- (v) Reported decision to close down the refractory and ceramic units of Burn Standard Company Ltd. (Raniganj)

SHRI AJIT BAG (Serampore) : Under Rules 377, I make the following statement :

I wish to draw the attention of the House to the reported decision to close down the Refractory and Ceramic Industries of Raniganj Group of works