

[श्री जैनुल बशर]

मिट्टी का तेल न मिलने की तथा उसको ब्लैक पर बेचे जाने की शिकायतें बहुत हैं जो कि मुझे पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के अन्य जिलों से भी मिली हैं।

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार मिट्टी के तेल का वितरण सहकारी भण्डारों तथा कुछ लाइसेंस शुदा वितरकों से कराती है। अनेक स्थानों पर मैंने यह पाया कि ये वितरक और कोआपरेटिव भण्डार मिट्टी का तेल नहीं रख रहे हैं। कमी होने के कारण जो भी तेल उपलब्ध होता है वह ब्लैक में बिक जाता है।

मेरा पेट्रोलियम एवं रसायन मंत्री से आग्रह है कि वह गाजीपुर में अधिक मात्रा में मिट्टी का तेल पहुँचाने की व्यवस्था करें तथा उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को सलाह दें कि इसे कंट्रोल से मुक्त किया जाये ताकि पहले की तरह गाँव से लेकर शहर तक दुकानों पर मिट्टी का तेल उपलब्ध हो सके।

(iv) CRISIS IN COTTON MILLS

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : I would like to raise the following issues under Rule 377.

A large number of cotton mills of the country are on the verge of closure due to demand recession. Huge stocks of cotton cloth are piling up and the financial position of those mills is deteriorating. Most of the mills are working below their capacity. The periodic labour unrest is another reason for the crisis in the cotton mills particularly in the northern region of the country. Almost all mills in this region are incurring losses due to steep rise in the prices of cotton and other inputs. Coal has to be moved by road and diesel generating sets are being used in the wake of power cuts, thereby adding to the production cost.

In view of the crisis, the proposal for modernisation of cotton mills has been pushed to the background. If remedial measures are not taken by the Government on a priority basis, the crisis faced by the textile industry will deepen further.

Therefore, the Government should relax credit norms to provide some relief to the mills. It is necessary to ensure supply of cotton and viscose fibre at stable and reasonable prices so that the production cost could be reduced. Proper incentives should be given for boosting the export of fabrics. At the same time, immediate steps should be taken by the Government of India to abolish import duty on viscose staple fibre and reduce the countervailing excise in order to ensure economic working of cotton mills and to save them from closure.

(v) NEED FOR SETTING UP A FISHING HARBOUR AT PARADIP PORT

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK (Jagatsinghpur) : The authority of Paradip Port of Orissa is facing a great difficulty in accommodating a large number of boats in the absence of a fishing harbour. About 500 mechanised and non-mechanised boats are operating in the Paradip area and those boats are being accommodated temporarily at wooden jetties in a very limited space inside the turning basin of the main harbour. The facility available for accommodating those boats is very inadequate.

The proposal to set up a fishing harbour at Paradip Port has been pending before the Government as far back as 1970. The estimated cost of the proposed fishing harbour has been updated from time to time. The Government of Orissa and the Paradip Port authority have requested the Centre to take up construction work of the fishing harbour at Paradip at an early date.

The increasing number of fishing boats in that area has created a problem to the port authority for accommodating them. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that a fishing harbour should be set up at Paradip.

As such, I demand in this august House that the Government of India should take an early decision on the above matter and a fishing harbour should be set up at Paradip Port of Orissa in the current financial year.

(vi) NEED FOR SETTING UP A 50 MW THERMAL POWER STATION IN COIMBATORE.

SHRI ERA MOHAN (Coimbatore) : There are at present 105 textile mills in Coimbatore District with an installed capacity of 25.35 lakh spindles and 4,076 looms and employing about 64,000 persons. The annual production of yarn in these mills is around 82 million kgs. valued at Rs. 213 crores. Production of cloth is around 49 million metres. valued at Rs. 40 crores. The mills in Coimbatore District are a very important source of supply of yarn to the decentralised handloom, powerloom and knitting sectors, providing employment for lakhs and lakhs of workers and a means of livelihood for families depending on them.

Besides these textile mills, in Coimbatore there are hundreds of engineering foundries and other allied subsidiary industries, for which power is needed in substantial quantum. These foundries employ several thousands of people. These textile mills and foundries are subjected to 80 per cent power cut for nearly six to seven months in a year, with the consequence of throwing thousands of people out of employ-

ment, besides loss of production all over.

It is estimated that the textile mills in Coimbatore District alone require about 1,11,500 KVA of power. Their monthly requirements in 1980 was 40 million units, against which they were supplied with 28 million units by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. The balance requirements were met partly by self-generation of 9 million units. The total cost of self-generated power works out to Rs. 1.1 crores. If a part of this amount is invested for the establishment of a thermal power station in Coimbatore, with an installed capacity of, say, 50 MW, it will be possible to reduce the impact of power-cut on mills, maintain production and employment and reduce losses on this account. It would result in reducing the pressure on the State grid and enable the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to reduce power-cut on other large-scale, small-scale industries, agricultural sector etc.

The capital cost of a 50 MW thermal power station would be around Rs. 25 crores. When the textile mills themselves are ready to participate in the equity capital required for such a thermal power station, efforts should be made to set up this such needed thermal power station in the joint sector, with the participation of the State Government, the Central Government and, if necessary, with financial aid from international financial institutions. Since adequate water supply can be assured from Aliyar and Bhavani rivers, this station can be set up near Pollachi or Mattupalayam in Coimbatore district, from where power can be transmitted to these textile mills.

Since the livelihood of nearly a lakh of workers is involved, it is demanded that immediate steps should be taken by the Government to implement this purposeful proposition.