

more than Rs. 15 lakhs out of Rs. 85 lakhs which was sanctioned to purchase the accumulated stock.

In view of the serious situation that has arisen in the handloom industry in Kerala, I earnestly request the Government to take the following steps:—

1. Reservation in the manufacturing of handloom clothes.

2. Fix the price of all kinds of yarn used in the manufacture of handloom at least for a specific period, and ensure steady supply of yarn.

3. Introduce a national minimum wage immediately.

4. Make arrangements to purchase the accumulated stock and sell it through Government agency.

5. Prevent the rise in prices of essential chemicals which are used in the manufacture of clothes and set up a colour manufacturing unit at Cannanore.

(viii) NEED TO RESTORE TRAIN SERVICES OF DARJEELING HIMALAYAN SECTION OF N. F. RAILWAY

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

A serious situation has arisen since the unwarranted withdrawal of train services on the Darjeeling Himalayan Section of the N. F. Railway. Suspension of this service would throw a large number of railway employees out of employment and push them with their family members on the verge of starvation. As a consequence of suspension of this service a large number of tourists, who visit Darjeeling are experiencing great inconvenience. This is the tourist season and Darjeeling is one of the most beautiful tourist centres in the world. The economy of this backward hill region depends on tea, tourism

and timber. The tea industry is dwindling and if the flow of tourists is also hampered due to withdrawal of this service, the whole economy of Darjeeling will collapse giving rise to serious economic, social and political problem. The transportation problem of the hills is very acute due to topographical position of the hills. The movement of small train on narrow gauge has contributed to some extent to ease this problem. Besides this, the small trains running on the narrow gauge on Darjeeling Himalayan section are themselves the unique objects of attraction. This is called Toy Train. This beautiful toy train was introduced a century ago by the then British Government. Britishers left India but the engineering genius of British engineers remained an ornament of the queens of hills. Attempts were made to withdraw this service in the past but the public opinion forced the Government to retain this service. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to restore the train services on Darjeeling Himalayan section of N. F. Railway without any further delay.

14.24 hrs

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1981-82—
Contd.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS—
Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of Ministry of Communications, Shri T. S. Negi.

श्री टी. एस. नेगी (टिड्डी गढ़वाल)
उत्पादक मजदूर, टेलीफोन के सम्बन्ध में मुझे यह निवेदन करना है कि आज हमारे पूरे देश के हर एक शहर में जहाँ जहाँ टेलीफोन लगे हुए हैं, उनमें से शायद ही कोई ऐसा टेलीफोन होगा, जो चौबीस घंटे काम करता हो। कोई भी माननीय सदस्य यह बता दें कि क्या उसका टेली-