

Passenger traffic booked from and to this Railway Station is quite appreciable. This Flag Station caters to the need of travelling public of at least forty villages of that area. The Flag Station is not connected with any tar road. There is no bus transport service available from Khanpur Ahir to Rewari on Northern side, and from Khanpur Ahir to Harsahli on Southern side. The people of that area are incessantly demanding that Khanpur Ahir Flag Station should be upgraded as fullfledged railway station. I, in the interest of the general public of that area, urge upon the Railway Minister of the Union to upgrade Khanpur Ahir Flag Station to the category of fullfledged Railway Station.

(vii) **Steps needed to Popularise the Kashmiri Handicrafts**

**SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI** (Srinagar) : Carpets, shawls and handicrafts of different types manufactured by skilled artisans of Kashmir Valley have great market all over the world besides having traditional markets in the country. These handicrafts, besides providing livelihood to lakhs of people, artisans, etc., in Kashmir in manufacturing, management and marketing, fetch rich dividends in the foreign markets. Unfortunately, the Central Government has not taken adequate steps for promoting, popularizing and sustaining the trade of Kashmiri handicrafts in the outside world. As a matter of fact, last year when slump in carpet and handicrafts industries affected their sale in foreign country, the Central Government of India did not do enough for its survival and lessening the crisis in the industry, causing extensive loss and unemployment. Since Government is earning a lot of foreign exchange in this sector, it must help the Jammu and Kashmir Government on a gigantic scale in promotion, sale and marketing of the handicrafts by earmarking sufficient funds for this and other purposes. Besides, it should on its own organise exhibitions of Kashmiri handicrafts and carpets in the European and Asian countries, including USA and USSR. The State of Jammu and Kashmir with meagre resources can do little in this direction which is primarily the responsibility of the Central Government.

(viii) **Need to Control the price of tea by selling it through NAFED and NCCF throughout the country**

**श्रीमती किशोरी सिन्हा (वैशाली)** : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक समय था जब चाय अमीरों के चोंचले के रूप में मानी जाती थी, किन्तु आज वह झोपड़ियों तक की अनिवार्य चाह बन चुकी है। कृत्रिम अभाव दिखाकर वस्तुओं के मूल्य बढ़ा देने का एक नया तरीका चल पड़ा है। गत वर्ष चाय का उत्पादन 5640 लाख किलो ग्राम था। इस वर्ष अभी तक 5500 लाख किलो ग्राम हो चुका है। गत वर्ष की अपेक्षा उत्पादन में कमी बहुत आंशिक है किन्तु मूल्य वृद्धि 100 प्रतिशत से ऊपर हो चुकी है। खेद है कि सरकारी संस्थानों ने भी अवसर का लाभ उठा कर इस मूल्य वृद्धि में सहयोग करके इस मूल्य वृद्धि के औचित्य पर ठप्पा लगा दिया है। गत 1978-79 वर्षों में भी इसी प्रकार चाय का उत्पादन 5570 लाख किलोग्राम से 5437 लाख किलोग्राम हुआ था किन्तु उम समय नेफेड एवं एन० सी० सी० एफ० की संस्थाओं द्वारा समस्त देश में चाय एक निश्चित मूल्य पर बिक्री करके मूल्यों पर काबू पा लिया गया था। अतः आज भी मैं आपके माध्यम से यह सुझाव सरकार को देना चाहती हूँ और आग्रह करती हूँ कि सरकार अविलम्ब इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था कर इस मूल्य वृद्धि को रोके और आम व्यक्ति को राहत पहुंचाए।

(ix) **Expansion of Durgapur Fertilizer Plant**

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER** (Durgapur) : The machinery and plant installed in Durgapur Fertiliser Plant have become more or less obsolete. Reasonably, these outlived machinery and plants cannot produce any good results.

At present the country is facing acute shortage of fertiliser which is no doubt affecting the food production of our country severely. The country is forced to import fertiliser to make up the shortfall. As a result, a lot of foreign exchange is being spent on this account.