

(iv) **Need to include the Handloom (Reservation of Articles of Production) Act, 1985 in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution**

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): I would raise the following matter under Rule 377.

Nearly 10 million people are employed in Handloom sector. This sector accounts for 30 per cent of the total cloth production and gives employment to about 98 lakhs poor traditional weavers in the country.

In view of the importance of the Handloom Industry in the national economy, the Government of India enacted a legislation entitled 'The Handloom (Reservation of articles of Production) Act, 1985. Following the notification of the Act, the Central Government in order to have an effective implementation of the Act has set up three regional offices at Delhi, Pune and Coimbatore for protection and development of handloom weavers in the country. Now efforts are being made that this HRA Act, 1985 should be squashed and the regional office should be shifted elsewhere from Pune. If these two things materialise 10 million poor handloom weavers will have to face starvation. Therefore, it is earnestly requested that the matter may be taken up immediately for (1) stoppage of shifting of Pune Regional Office elsewhere and (2) inclusion of HRA 1985 in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

(v) **Need for overall development of Bundelkhand region comprising of some districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Sir, the area of Bundelkhand region, comprising five districts of Uttar Pradesh and 18 districts of Madhya Pradesh, is more than the area of several states. The popula-

tion of the region is also double as compared to several other states. This entire plateau region is backward in the matter of irrigation, drinking water, industry and education.

This regional imbalance has become a curse. The Government should take special steps to solve this problem.

To strengthen the irrigation resources, a joint irrigation board for Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh should be constituted. Since both states have a common source of water, it is essential to construct a dam over the reservoir. Land reforms should be accelerated. The cultivable land should be levelled. Farming by modern methods should be encouraged.

Special efforts should be made for development of industries, both big and small.

Heavy industry should be set up at some places and financial assistance should be provided for setting up of small-scale industries.

The Government should implement a scheme that leads to the overall and integrated development of this plateau region.

(vi) **Need to check illegal felling of trees in Rajgir Hills, Bihar**

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an important matter under Rule 377.

Rajgir, in Bihar, is a major tourist centre of historical importance and a place of attraction for Indian and foreign tourists. There are five hills and extensive forests in the area. To the north of these hills and forests is Nalanda district, to the south is Nawada and to the west is Gaya district. There is large scale illegal felling of trees in these forests. Land is acquired on lease and trees are felled on that basis.