

[Shri V. N. Gadgil]

The Government, therefore, should immediately intervene in the matter and ensure that the recommendations of the Justice Palekar Tribunal are implemented by the management.

(ii) PROBLEMS OF HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN KERALA

\*SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

The handloom sector plays a very significant role in creating employment opportunities and easing foreign exchange in the face of very stiff competition from many areas and in different ways in the de-centralized sector. This sector has given employment to two lakhs of people in Kerala alone.

The handloom industry in Kerala is facing a crisis to-day. Apart from the rise in prices and shortage of yarn and chemicals, accumulation of unsold stock of handloom cloth has really crippled this sector.

Rs. 7 crore-worth of handloom products are lying unsold, in Kerala alone. Incentive schemes like rebate etc., cannot help in selling the huge stock that has accumulated. Even the Handloom Development Corporation does not have the financial capacity to procure the entire stock. Thus there is very acute unemployment prevailing in this sector. What is urgently needed is the setting up of a National Handloom Development Corporation which can play a very important role in different aspects of this industry, such as production, marketing, distribution of raw materials etc. At the same time, the production of controlled cloth should be entrusted to the handloom sector, and market should be explored for the sale of the handloom production. The most important factor in regard to protection of handloom is reservation in production. That is not being done fully. The State Governments which have the responsibility to ensure that reservation is implemented, do not show enough interest.

Another urgent step that should be taken is to bring down the price of yarn and remove its shortage. Kerala has to depend on other States for yarn. Therefore, making use of the additional looms that will be sanctioned during the 6th Plan, one spinning mill should be set up in Kerala. Since there is no control over the price or distribution of yarn, there is sudden fluctuation in the prices. Therefore, as a temporary measure, at least the price of yarn should be fixed by the Government. I request the Government that necessary steps may be taken to save this industry, which is a source of livelihood for lakhs of people.

(iii) STEPS FOR IMPROVING POWER SUPPLY IN RAJASTHAN

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

The Atomic Power Project (Rawatbhata), Kota, Rajasthan has got two units. The first was commissioned in the year 1973 and it is to generate 200 MW electricity. The second of the project has been commissioned in November, 1980, and its capacity to generate electricity is 200 MW. Unfortunately, these two units are not generating to their maximum capacity. Not only this, both the units have got a chequered career of shutting down because of frequent faults in their working. The days of the shutting down of these units outnumber the days of working. The shutting down of atomic power units has caused substantial loss to the crops of the farmers from the irrigation point of view, because of non-supply of electricity.

The Kota Atomic Power Plant, Unit 1 has to be shut down for maintenance work during this month, as reported in newspapers to-day.

Rajasthan has got a share in Gandhi Sagar Dam Hydel Project, Bhakra Nangal Hydel project and Vyas Hydel Project in Himachal Pradesh, but the State is not being given its proper

share by the concerned project authorities. The thermal power project at Kota has not yet been commissioned. The project is yet incomplete, due to its slow working.

Minimum electricity requirement of Rajasthan is 180 lakh units, but during the period from July to February, the maximum supply of electricity has been below 80 lakh units. It can well be imagined how much losses have been sustained by the farmers and industrial units depending upon the availability of electricity.

22 districts of Rajasthan have got no assured sources of irrigation, and they depend upon ground water for irrigating their crops. Tube wells and cavity tube wells pump out water only with the help of electricity, motors and pump sets. As there has been no supply of energy to the electric motors installed in open wells and cavity tube-wells of the farmers, their crops have been badly damaged because of non-irrigation.

In view of the above existing conditions, I wish to make the following suggestions:

1. That Rajasthan should be supplied with more electricity from other States.
2. That the minimum charges of electricity fixed by the Rajasthan State Electricity Board should not be realised from the agriculturists of Rajasthan.
3. The agriculturists of Rajasthan whose crops have been damaged due to non-supply of electricity should be compensated.
4. A committee of experts and engineers of the Atomic Power Project should be appointed to investigate the causes of frequent shutting down of Rajasthan Atomic Power Project units at Rawatbhatta (Kota).

(iv) REPORTED DECISION FOR ALLOWING IMPORT OF PRE-PARTIALLY ORIENTED YARN FOR ACTUAL USERS.

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH (Dum Dum):**  
On January 28, 1981, the Commerce Ministry announced the decision to

allow import of prepartially oriented yarn for actual users. The state Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporations of India has been appointed as the cancelising agency; imports to be initially allowed for a period of 3 months. The decision is said to be in violation of all established norms as laid down in the IDR Act and MRTP Act and would only help a few units in the cotton textile industry and nylon spinners.

In taking this particular decision the Commerce Ministry has completely ignored the advice of D.G.T.D. and the decision of P.A.B. that crimping is not a part of weaving. The D.G.T.D. which is the sponsoring authority for nylon filament yarn has also not been taken into account. What is more surprising is that polyester filament yarn producers have been recognised as actual users for import of partially oriented polyester yarn. The Textile Commissioner will certify their eligibility as nylon spinners for the purpose of import. The weavers have not been given an opportunity to import their requirements based on their capacity, but only to the extent they have crimping capacity. Hence, weavers as such are not eligible although the Import Trade Control Policy hitherto recognised them as actual users. In the past the weavers were permitted to import polyester staple fibre for conversion into yarn independently, for use in their undertakings.

The Arts Silk weaving industry naturally feels that the larger interests of the decentralised weaving community have been sacrificed at the altar of MRTP units belonging to the nylon yarn spinners and large cotton and arts silk sector, who would be the real beneficiaries of this decision.

The large organised cotton mills sector should not be allowed to encroach on the fields of production of small scale weavers as it would deliver a mortal blow at the decentralised weaving sector.

There should be an enquiry into the whole matter.