

[Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik]

Western Coal fields, Nagpur. As they are not under the administrative control of one company the progress of those coal fields becomes extremely difficult. The large quarriable reserves of coal in the Ib Valley Coal field can sustain establishment of a Super Thermal Power Station in the area which can meet the growing needs of power in the industrial belt of Orissa during the Seventh Plan period.

The Government of India has a proposal to undertake the development and modernisation programme of some coal fields of the country. In view of this, I suggest that the coal fields of Orissa should be included under the above modernisation and development programmes proposed to be undertaken by the Government during the Sixth Plan period. At the same time, I demand that these two coalfields should be brought under the administrative control of a separate subsidiary company of Coal India Ltd., with headquarters at Bhubaneswar or any other place as may be convenient.

(iii) PROBLEMS OF SILK-WEAVERS OF KARNATAKA.

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA :
(Bangalore South) : Under rule 377,
I make the following statement.

India is one of the countries in the world which has silk industry from time immemorial. Karnataka is the leading State in production of raw silk and having large number of handlooms and powerlooms to manufacture quality sarees. Districts of Mysore, Mandy, Kolar and Bangalore are important for the production of raw silk.

Karnataka is supplying silk yarn required by weavers in Kashmir (J & K), Banaras (U.P.) Kanchi (Tamilnadu) and Dharmavar (Andhra Pradesh) which are important centres for silk textiles.

Last year on account of a disease to the mulberry, there was a serious set-back to production of cocoons (both quality and quantity).

Government of Karnataka did not make proper efforts to regulate the silk industry and trade and the production and sale went into the hands of certain vested interests. The middleman at different stages is exploiting the situation for his advantage. Action taken by the Government of Karnataka to establish silk exchange, imposition of sales tax etc. affected the silk trade.

I appeal to the Government of India to take up this matter with all seriousness and regulate the working of this important industry on a sound basis. Karnataka has all the advantages to develop this industry, which gives employment to many and build up the economy of the country. This industry can be started in other States also.

It is quite possible to make India a major silk exporting country.

I suggest that an expert committee be constituted immediately to make a thorough examination of all aspects of silk industry and trade and prepare a comprehensive plan, so that the grower can get proper returns for his efforts, the weaver gets adequate wages and the consumer can get silk cloth at a reasonable cost.

A statutory body like that of Coffee Board may be formed to regulate the industry and trade of silk with the assistance of cooperative societies formed to help growers and weavers.

The Government of India is contemplating to import large quantity of silk yarn from China which may adversely affect our silk production within the country, particularly Karnataka. The present abnormal rate of silk has to be brought down.