

[Shri Som Nath Chatterjee]

essential raw material. Most of the Coke Briquette units are on the verge of closure as they are not getting their quota of breeze coke from the West Bengal Small Industries Corporation Limited which is the approved agency for distribution of the raw material among the registered small scale industries units.

For non-availability of the required number of wagons from the Railway Authority, it is not being possible for the West Bengal Small Industries Corporation to bring breeze coke in sufficient quantity from Durgapur and Burnpur and as a result the entire distribution system has failed and briquette manufacturing units are starving for want of breeze coke, the essential raw material besides Breeze coke, the same difficulty is also being felt in respect of distribution of B.P. Hard Coke causing acute hardship to hundreds of units consuming the raw materials. Against the requirement of at least seven rakes per month for movement of breeze coke, the Railway Authority have sanctioned only two rakes in favour of the West Bengal Small Industries Corporation. I request from the Corporation to increase the quota of rakes has been turned down by the Director of Movement/Railways by his letter No. CM/PROG/EN/EHS/1980 dated 18/1/1980.

In the circumstances, I would request the hon. Railway Minister kindly to issue necessary instructions to the Railway Authority so that the West Bengal Small Scale Industries Corporation Limited may be allotted the required number of wagons for smooth flow of breeze coke and B.P. Hard Coke and thereby save in particular the briquette manufacturing units and the foundries of the State from the grave situation faced by them for want of raw materials.

(iii) REPORTED CRISIS IN HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN KERALA DUE TO RISE IN PRICE OF HANK YARN

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, the handloom industry is

facing a continuous crisis which has further deepened. Consequently, the handloom workers in Kerala have decided that in the event of the Government of India failing to accede to their requests, they would strike work on 30th June, 1980 and picket all Central Government offices.

There is a pressing need to realise the gravity of the crisis faced by the industry. The prices of all counts of hank yarn are shooting up. As the traditional industry is unable to bear the increase, there is largescale unemployment in the industry with consequent untold hardships to the workers.

It is a persistent demand of the industry that the Government of India should make available cotton hank yarn to the handloom industry at fair prices, that it, at the rates that prevailed in October, 1978. Further in order to avoid inter-State disparities in wages, uniform minimum wages should be introduced for the handloom workers throughout the country.

I have to urge upon the Government for immediate action to help the industry in its deepening crisis as also to avert the proposed strike. An early statement in the House by the Government is also requested.

(iv) REPORTED STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF REHABILITATION ABOUT WINDING UP OF DANDAKARANYA PROJECT

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (Dum Dum): Under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance:

Sir, the statement of the Minister for Rehabilitation that the Dandakaranya project would be wound up within 1981 has caused consternation amongst the refugees and all sections of the public who happen to know anything about the problem.

It is fairly and widely known that the Union Government has never