

pittiable due to want of market for their produce, financial, technical and other facilities.

The reluctance to purchase the Handloom cloth of Bihar at the State level by the All India handloom Fabrics Marketing Society is posing a lot of difficulties.

There is no design centre in Bihar to provide them new designs to match the changing requirements of markets demands.

The small weavers have to look to Calcutta for the purpose of processing of their products which is adversely affecting further growth of such industries in the rural areas. The establishment of a central processing unit would increase the income of the weavers more than two-fold.

Bihar has only 2 weavers' service centres namely, Madhubani and Bhagalpur. At least three more service centres at places having high concentration of weavers, namely, Biharsharif, Siwan and Ranchi, should be opened without any delay.

Opening of National Handloom Development Corporation either at Nalanda or Patna is also essential for the benefit of the poor weaver community of the State.

I urge upon the Government to take positive action in the above matters.

(iv) **Need to stop Sabarmati Express at Sarangpur and Ruthiai in Madhya Pradesh**

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh) : Under Rule 377, I make the following statement :

I congratulate the Railway Minister for having sanctioned the running of Sabarmati Express on Guna-Maksi Line in M.P.

This Sabarmati Express 165 Up-166 DN, is running as a passenger train

between Jhansi and Nagda. It was supposed to run as a fast train between Maksi and Beena. But the stoppages now given are Shajapur (District HQ), Bisora (Rajgarh Distt.), Guna (Distt. HQ) and also at Ashok Nagar and Mungavali both in Guna District, making it again a passenger train between Guna and Beena. This has resulted in hurting the feelings of Rajgarh Constituency people who belong to under developed area. Again there is public agitation in Rajgarh Constituency, and they are now demanding at least 2 stoppages, one at Sarangpur—a fast developing industrial town and at Ruthiai a Rajasthan M.P. junction on Guna-Maksi line. The proposed National Fertilizers Ltd., a major project of Gas-based Fertilizer Factory is coming at Vijaypur near Ruthiai. Besides, there is vast passenger traffic at Ruthiai for Gujarat—Rajasthan and M.P. who wish to reach religious places like Varanasi, Ujjain, Dwarka, Somnath etc. from Ruthiai. It is clear that the stoppages at short distance at Ashok Nagar and Mungavali were sanctioned under political pressure. This has resulted in the public demand for stoppage on more important and viable stations like Sarangpur and Ruthiai. Since the Sabarmati Express is now almost a passenger, there is all the logic in keeping two stoppages more at Sarangpur and Ruthiai. Shajapur to Bisora to Guna is almost 100 kms. distance. While Guna to Ashok Nagar to Mungavali to Beena is only 35 Kms, distance from each other.

The public of Rajgarh District are now preparing for Satyagraha and agitation to make Sabarmati Express stop at Sarangpur and Ruthiai.

(v) **Reported decision to close down the refractory and ceramic units of Burn Standard Company Ltd. (Raniganj)**

SHRI AJIT BAG (Serampore) : Under Rules 377, I make the following statement :

I wish to draw the attention of the House to the reported decision to close down the Refractory and Ceramic Industries of Raniganj Group of works

of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. Raniganj. This information was given this month by the Chairman and Member, Board of Directors, Burn Standard Co. Ltd., during a meeting. It appears the decision shall be approved in the Board's meeting to be held on 29-3-1984. This report is indeed puzzling since the Industry Minister in his letter dated 17-3-1983 had reportedly assured Shri Samar Mukherjee, M.P. that "there is no proposal to close down the refractory and ceramic units of Burn Standard Co. Ltd., at Raniganj". Further it was given to understand that an Expert Committee on public enterprises (Fasal Committee) had proposed merger of Refractory and Ceramic Units of Burn Standard with the Steel Ministry and a final decision is yet to be taken. No where it was proposed to close down these units.

Thus it is very clear that the reported decision to close down the Refractory and Ceramic Units of Burn Standard Co. is arbitrary and will undermine the importance of these units functioning under public sector undertaking.

I urge upon the Minister to reiterate the assurance given by him earlier that these units would not be closed down.

- (vi) Need to expedite the ONGC surveys in Akola and Yeotmal districts for speedy and early industrial development of Vidarbha region

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE (Akola) : Under Rule 377, I make the following statement :

Economic backwardness of Vidarbha region is a fact acknowledged by Government and all concerned. The demand for speedy and early industrial and other development of this region has gathered indisputable momentum.

It has been recently reported in the Press that O.N.G.C. had undertaken surveys in this region in view of this need. Press reports indicate that there

is great potential in the districts of Akola and Yeotmal in this region according to O.N.G.C. surveys.

As one of the representatives of this area, I earnestly request the Minister of Petroleum to expedite this survey and take other consequential steps in this regard, so that new avenues of national wealth and regional growth are opened. Early action will be most appropriate response to people's aspirations. I am confident that Government will intensify efforts in this direction as it is a matter of great public importance.

- (vii) Need to introduce Vayudoot service between Patna and Purnea (Bihar)

श्रीमती माधुरी सिंह (पूणिया) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सरकार का ध्यान पटना और पूणिया के बीच विमान सेवा की आवश्यकता की ओर आकषित करना चाहती हूँ। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं पहले भी सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट कर चुकी हूँ। गत समय में जब मैंने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री जी से अनुरोध किया था तो उन्होंने पब्लिक मीटिंग में यह आश्वासन दिया था कि शीघ्र ही पूणिया से वायुदूत सेवा प्रारम्भ कर दी जायेगी। वहाँ एक विशाल और उपयोगी एयर फील्ड पहले से ही विद्यमान है। इसकी मरम्मत का कार्य शुरू किया गया था किन्तु अब वह किन्हीं कारणों से रोक दिया गया है।

पूणिया बंगला देश और नेपाल की सीमा पर स्थित है। सामरिक दृष्टि से पूणिया अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। पटना से पूणिया तक रेल सेवा नाम मात्र के लिये है। यात्रियों की असुविधा भीड़ रहती है। इस मार्ग पर विमान सेवा अत्यधिक उपयोगी और आर्थिक दृष्टि से लाभदायी सिद्ध होगी। इस विमान सेवा से लोगों की कठिनाई कम होगी और पूणिया के अतिरिक्त समीपवर्ती जिलों में भी जनता इस