

1. The Chairman of the U.G.C.
8. Shri B. D. Jatti.
- 9 Shri Rajeshwar Prasad.
10. Shri Achyut Patwardhan.
11. Shri Y. B. Chavan.
12. Shri Chandra Sekhar.
13. Shri Madhu Dandavate.
14. Shri Naval Tata.
15. Dr. Shantilal Mehta.

14.30 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

##### (i) NEED TO SET UP A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY IN BIHAR.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

The professed objective of the Government is to remove regional imbalance through different developmental programmes in various regions. The over-riding consideration should be to extend educational facilities at all levels to fight disparities and wide-spread illiteracy which are responsible for keeping these areas backward. Developed areas are, however, getting more facilities and the under-developed ones continue to be deprived of their share in the national cake. Bihar is one such case. It is the second most populous State with the largest reserves of mineral wealth in the country. It also contributes a hefty chunk of the national revenue in form of different taxes.

Keeping in view its size, potentialities and backwardness, Bihar should have a central university which can act as a model institution for the universities and institutions of higher learning and research in the State, especially in view of the fact that neighbouring states like U.P. and West Bengal have already got central universities. But it is unfortunate that the repeated demand of Bihar Government, intellectuals,

teachers and students for conversion of Patna University into a Central University has not received any serious attention of the Central Government. I may point out that Patna University is one of the oldest universities in the country and has the distinction of having an impressive band of highly trained teachers, rich libraries and sophisticated laboratories. I may also point out that the teachers, students and the intellectuals of Patna have formed a joint council of action and have been agitating for getting this long-standing demand accepted by the Central Government.

Bihar, which has been the seat of such legendary universities as Nalanda and Bikramshila in ancient times which had drawn seekers of truth and higher learning not only from the different parts of our country but from distant lands of the world, should not be discriminated against and denied a Central University. I urge upon the Minister of Education to immediately accept this long-standing demand of the people of Bihar.

##### (ii) CRISIS IN HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN TAMIL NADU DUE TO WITHDRAWAL OF REBATE

SHRI M. S. K. SATHIYENDRAN (Ramanathapuram): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

At present the Handloom Industry in Tamil Nadu is passing through an unprecedented crisis due to accumulation of stock in the cooperative sector. Now the rebate is allowed on sale of Handloom cloth on condition that the sale should be restricted to Rs. 500/- per transaction for silk and cotton at one time. Due to this restriction consumers who want to buy more than Rs. 500/- are not in a position to avail the 20 per cent rebate. This affects the middle class income group such as N. G. Gos. and agriculturist who like to celebrate the marriages and festivals by purchasing large quantity of Handloom clothes especially silk.

[Shri M. S. K. Sathiyendran]

The Handloom Industry in Tamil Nadu owes its growth largely due to the rebate given to the bulk sales for the past thirty years. By this bulk sales the Primary Cooperative Societies were able to give continuous employment to the weavers. By closing this venue huge stocks are accumulating and this accumulation affects only the poor weavers terribly.

Most of the societies in Tamil Nadu do not have their own sales depots and they depend upon to co-optex to protect their interest. The policy of restricted rebate would certainly affect employment position in the Handloom Industry. The cooperative sector has got moral and social responsibility to maintain the tempo of employment for the Handloom weavers enrolled in co-operatives. Unless the rebate for bulk sales is allowed the competitive position of Industries in Co-operative Sector will very much be affected. The restriction on rebate would adversely affect the expansion programmes of the cooperatives also.

Tamil Nadu has the highest concentration of Handloom weavers in the country and among the districts of Tamil Nadu Ramanathapuram has the largest number of Handlooms. The weavers are experiencing number of difficulties and untold sufferings due to accumulation of stock.

Therefore, I request the Minister to kindly redress the grievances of the poor weavers by passing immediate orders on the removal of restriction on rebate. If the rebate is allowed throughout the year without any restriction the middle man can take advantage of the rebate facility and the entire benefit will reach the actual weavers.

To fulfil the objectives of providing continuous and full employment to weavers I once again request the Commerce Minister to allow rebate on Handloom cloth without any restriction and save the Handloom Industry and the poor weavers.

(iii) NEED FOR A TRAIN CONNECTING SIRPUR-KHAGAZNAGAR WITH HYDERABAD

SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY (Adilabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the most industrially developed rural area of Andhra Pradesh is from Sirpur-Khagaznagar via Bellampelly via Mancherial via Ramagundam upto Peddapelly. This is about 100 km. in length from Sirpur-Khagaznagar to Peddapelly and falls in Adilabad and Karimnagar districts of Andhra Pradesh and is on main trunk railway line of Kazeepit Balharsh a section of S. C. Railway.

This area consists of the following, existing and under construction, major industries:—(1) Sirpur Paper Mills, (2) Sir Silk Factory, (3) Singareni Collieries (one Division), (4) Three Cement Factories, (5) One Spinning Mill, (6) L.T.C. Plant (Coal Complex), (7) Thermal Plant (A.P.S.E.B.), (8) Fertiliser Plant (F.C.I.) and (9) Super Thermal Plant, and more than one hundred small scale industries. The rough estimate of total investment in all the industries in this area is about Rs. 1050 crores and the total persons directly employed in these factories is about 4 lakhs.

Now, the importance of this area can be judged. Although this area is on the main line, unfortunately, this area is not connected to Hyderabad capital of Andhra Pradesh, by a convenient train. In spite of several representations from local M.L.As., business people and industrialists, the authorities of S.C. Railways knowing fully well the importance and urgency of the requirement have not yet provided with extra train connecting this area to Hyderabad.

I request the Minister for Railways to take up this issue immediately and provide one train connection Sirpur—Khagaznagar to Hyderabad. If this is not immediately possible, then I would suggest extending the present Kakatheya Express which is now running from Warangal to Hyderabad upto Sirpur—Khagaznagar.