[श्री चन्द्रपाल शैलानी]

में धोने पड़ते हैं, जो न केवल नागरिकों, बल्कि खुद धोबियों के स्वास्थ्य के लिये भी हानिकारक हैं ।

श्रीमन्, दिल्ली में धोबियों के लिये वर्तमान घाटों की संख्या पर्याप्त नहीं है । 1970 के बाद से नये घाटों का निर्माण नहीं किया गया है । 1975 में रामकृष्णपुरम क्षेत्र में एक घाट और कुछ मकान जरूर बनाये गये थे, परन्तु मकान धोबियों के बजाय अन्य लोगों को आवंटित कर दिये गये और घाट पर समुचित व्यवस्था न होने के कारण आज तक वह खाली पड़ा है ।

दिल्ली के धोबियों के अनेक संगठन और उनके नेता समय समय पर दिल्ली प्रशासन को अपनी समस्याओं तथा मांगों के संबंध में अवगत कराते रहे हैं, किन्तु इस संबंध में अभी तक कोई ठोस एवं प्रभावी कदम नहीं उठाया गया है । इनलोगों की यह भी मांग है कि हलवाईयों की तरह उन्हें भी कोयले का कोटा निर्धारित किया जाय और कपड़े धोने के काम आने वाली अन्य सामग्री भी उन्हें उचित मूल्य पर दिलायी जाये तथा रहने के लिये आवास की व्यवस्था की जाये ।

मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि इस समाज के काम और मेहनत को ध्यान में रखकर वह दिल्ली प्रशासन को निर्देश दे कि धोबियो की उपरोक्त समस्याओं को हल करने के लिये तुरन्त आवश्यक कार्यवाही अमल में लायें ।

(viii) Crisis in handloom industry in Kerala due to accumulation of Stocks.

SHRI K. KUNHAMBU (Cannanore): I want to draw the attention of the Government to the serious crisis facing the handloom industry in Kerala. Kerala is famous for its handloom products from time immemorial. But, it is facing such a serious crisis that about one lakh of workers employed in this industry are today out of job. Lack of demand in the international market and the consequent stocks accumulation are the main causes of this crisis. According to an estimate, Rs. 1.5 crores worth of handloom clothes have accumulated in the private sector and Rs. 7 crores worth of clothes in 'Hantex' and Handloom Development Corporation. Unless an all-out effort is made to move the stock, the workers and their families will face starvation deaths. Cannanore and Calicut districts are the most affected areas, as majority of the looms are centred in these two districts.

Loss of international market due to stiff competition from countries like Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong, China, Sri Lanka and even Pakistan is one of the reasons for the present state of affairs. Another reason is the abnormal rise in the prices of yarn and the chemicals used in dyeing etc. For example, the price of yarn of lower count of 20 was Rs. 30|- in 1968. It has now gone up to Rs. 105|-. The low wages prevailing in the neighbouring States of Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka have also contributed very much to this crisis.

In this situation, the Government has to come forward to help this sector to tide over the present crisis. Immediate steps should be taken to make enough yarn available at reasonable prices. Chemicals used in this industry should be supplied at reasonable prices. These should be distributed through cooperative societies or Government Depots. A levy system should be introduced in the supply of yarn so that the mills could be compelled to supply it to the handloom units. Free ration should be supplied to the workers till they get employment. I would request the Government to take these steps immediately and save this industry and the starving workers.