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**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**REPORTED CRISIS IN HANDLOOM AND
POWER LOOM INDUSTRIES**

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Patan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not received the statement from the Government, regarding my Calling Attention Notice. It is normally circulated to the Members. I have not received that.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): I have not received also.

Shri K. S. CHAVDA: He has not received also, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, the statement has come very late.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Reddy, I don't know anything about it. I am not responsible for the Short Notice Question; I think, it must have gone to the Government. It is for the hon. Minister to accept or not to accept it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Reddy, this is not the proper stage. I have already called the next item, Calling Attention.—Shri Chavda.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

'The reported crisis in the handloom and powerloom industries due to unprecedented rise in prices and non-availability of yarn.'

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, It is conceded that the decentralised sector is facing severe yarn shortages. This situation is a direct result to severe power-cuts affecting all the yarn producing States. The position has taken a turn for the worse because 33% of free yarn production capacity is located in Tamil Nadu which is under 75% power cut. In Uttar Pradesh, the power cut is of the order of 6.5

per cent now. The exact decline in production cannot be quantified. The price spiral which hit the free yarn availability in February, 1973, is, however, indicative of an anticipated steep decline in free yarn availability. I have been seized of this problem in all its facets during the last fortnight or so. I have held discussions with the Ministers of different State Governments and representatives of the cotton textile industry and trade. At all stages, the Planning Commission has also been associated with these discussions.

The problem because of its very intrinsic character does not lend itself to solutions which would fully satisfy the requirements of the decentralised sector in all the concerned States. Physical fall in production levels due to circumstances beyond our control cannot be completely corrected. To that extent, the decentralised sector would have to live with shortages, at least for the ensuing four months. I have, however taken the following decisions which should ease the situation to the extent it is possible:

(1) The producers of cotton yarn would be statutorily prohibited from selling yarn except in small quantities in the form of beams (meant for power-looms), to the trade or to anyone else except to the nominees of the Textile Commissioner. This is in pursuance of a voluntary obligation taken by the industry to place 100 per cent production of free yarn at the disposal of Government. The production is expected to be of the order of 27 million Kgs. per month and this will be distributed by the Textile Commissioner.

(2) All manufacturers of yarn shall under a Statutory Order, have to sell yarn only to the nominees of the Textile Commissioner.

(3) The manufacturers of yarn for civil consumption shall have to pack not less than 60 per cent of such yarn in the form of hanks (meant for handlooms) and not less than 20 per cent in the form of cones (meant for power looms), etc. In this matter the mills would need some time to acquire requisite reeling capacities.

(4) Mills producing and supplying hosiery yarns shall have to continue to do so under a statutory order.

(5) Each mill shall, under a statutory Order, have to display the name of the unit, the count of the yarn, and the ex-factory price of the yarn on each bundle of yarn delivered by the unit for the decentralised sector or civil consumption.

(6) The production pattern in terms of counts shall, under a statutory Order, be pegged down to the pattern obtaining in December, 1972.

(7) The prices shall be statutorily notified for each unit as follows :

(a) Upto counts 40s and below, the market prices of December, 1972 will be adopted. This is being done because there was no price like in these count of yarn upto December, 1972 over the previous 8-10 months.

(b) In regard to counts 60s and above, the regulated yarn prices adopted from 1.8 1972 would be taken as a base and also the following factors would be added thereto ;

(i) Changes in the prices of cotton since August, 1972.

(ii) Increase in labour costs.

(iii) Extra burden on the unit due to power-cuts by way of lay-off compensation payable to workers as well as distribution of the present overheads on a much smaller production.

(iv) In respect of units located in Tamil Nadu and U.P., a further 6 ppr cost allowance would be allowed both for the lower as well as for the higher counts, because of the higher incidence of power cut in these two States.

(v) The impact of a recently announced 40 per cent import duty on imported cottons.

(8) Yarn exports shall be conducted in a regulated manner. In respect of contracts under execution, deliveries shall be staggered beyond June 1973. Fresh contracts may be

registered with TEXPROCIL for deliveries for 1st September 1973. A ceiling will be put on export of yarn.

(9) In respect of firm export orders of handloom goods, special allocations will be made after each contract has been scrutinized by TEXPROCIL/Handloom Export Promotion Council.

State Governments, particularly Tamil Nadu and U.P. are being requested to make additional power available to the spinning units. Unless production revives, acute shortages can neither be averted nor mitigated.

Tamil Nadu Assembly have passed a Resolution requesting the Central Government that the entire production of that State may be made available to the handloom and powerloom sectors located within that State in pursuance of which they have also entered into an agreement with the Southern India Mill Owners Association. In this situation of overall shortages a rational and an equitable system of distribution has to be enforced.

I have received representations from some sectors of the industry urging that counts below 26s should not be brought under Distribution Control for two reasons. Firstly, there has not been any undue price rise in these counts of yarn; and secondly, the States where these yarns are used do not have any infra-structure to lift the quantities allocated to them. I have found that the regulated scheme enforced from 1st August, 1972, petered out mainly because only 50 per cent. of the free yarn production in the higher counts was controlled under the scheme. I am firmly of the view that, in the present situation half measures will create no impact and have to be firmly ruled out.

Regarding lifting of yarn, I am addressing the Chief Ministers immediately to let me know whether they will be able to retire the documents, take deliveries and distribute the yarn within their States. In case they want Central Government assistance in this behalf, I shall direct the Cotton Corporation, of India to act as the sole selling agent of the concerned State Government for this

purpose. The mill sector, irrespective of their geographic location, shall have to conform to the measures now being announced.

The success of the scheme depends on the co-operation of various State Government. I am, therefore, requesting the [Chief Ministers of all States to set up watch-dog committees consisting of different interests like industry, trade unions, representatives of handlooms, powerlooms, mill sector, Members of Parliament of the region and Members of the State Legislatures to study and supervise the harmonious functioning of the arrangements outlined above.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : I have just received this very long-6-page statement.

In spite of a very good cotton crop last year, there is a big shortfall, as agreed by the Minister also, in the production of yarn in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat due to power shortage and power cut in these States. Mills are not inclined to enforce a ban, to cut on the consumption of yarn for weaving cloth. If they do so, naturally they have also to retrench the workers. But the entire shortfall in the production of yarn passes onto the decentralised sector, that is, the handloom and powerindustry. Under these circumstances also, Government export yarn to foreign countries. This has resulted in an unprecedented rise in the prices of yarn and weavers are not in a position to purchase yarn at such high prices. If they do so, they are put to a loss because the prices of handloom cloth have not risen correspondingly.

Secondly, this has created widespread unemployment in the handloom and powerloom industry which gives employment to over 10 million persons in the country; this is the second biggest industry, the first being agriculture.

The Minister has mentioned the steps he has taken which are contained in this 6-page statement. I would like to know one thing. It is reported that Tamil Nadu is going to ban the movement of yarn from that State to other

States. If this happens, other States like Maharashtra will follow suit and there will be difficulty, as other States will be starved of yarn.

I would like to know what steps the Government is going to take to meet this situation.

Secondly, the hon. Minister said that he had convened a meeting to find out a solution. I would like to know when the meeting was held and when the recommendations or decisions taken at the meeting will be implemented.

The handloom industry is also exporting to foreign countries and that is why, if adequate quantities of yarn are not made available to the handloom and powerloom industries, the export of handloom cloth may also be adversely effected. This also should be taken note of.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA :

The hon. Members have raised very pertinent and very relevant questions, but most of them are in the form of some suggestions and queries, to which I have already provided the answer. Even then, since the hon. Member has raised them, I will touch upon one or two of them. I entirely agree with the hon. Member that of all the sectors, decentralised and centralised, of course the decentralised sector comprising the powerlooms and handlooms provide bread without butter to some eight million to nine million people who deserve our first sympathy. The policy statement I have made before you takes particular and special and preferential care of that very sector. So, if the hon. Member has found time, he could go through it and see for himself that the whole scheme is oriented primarily to their needs and their problems.

The second question is about the export. It is only a small quantum of our total textile production that we export, but in the context of overall national economic requirements terms of self-reliance, we need some and badly need some foreign exchange.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : Handlooms also is exporting,

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA :
I entirely agree with you.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : Instead of exporting the yarn, give the yarn to the handloom weavers so that the handloom products are exported.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I entirely agree with you. If Mr. Chavda suggests that extra yarn should be given to the decentralised sector for the purpose of export, I entirely agree with him, but if he meant—I do not know whether he does mean that—that exports should be cut down to fit the decentralised sector, then I have a slight reservation. I was only trying to make that point.

The other point that he referred to also very important, that is, the problem of the Tamil Nadu Government. Already, the Tamil Nadu Assembly has adopted a resolution requesting the Central Government that the entire production of their State may be made available to the handloom and powerloom sectors located within their State. I understand the problem of the Tamil Nadu Government because really they are in difficulty. But difficulties are not peculiar to that State. The difficulty is all over. It is almost a national problem resulting from a natural calamity over which we have no hand. So, the problem being what it is, and the shortage being what it is, we have to distribute our shortage as rationally and as equitably as possible.

SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN (Salem) :
That is only temporary; up to April.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : In the long run, as Lord Keynes said, we will all be dead and they will be discussing not this but they will be discussing something else. It is the short-term problem that we are dealing with. After the onset of the monsoon which, we hope, will be good, many of these problems like the power-cut and consequential difficulties will be over. The short term problem faced by the Tamil Nadu Government is not peculiar to Tamil Nadu. There are many other States. The other day

I had a discussion with the Industries Minister on phone, I found the response was very friendly and conciliatory and that he is also trying to sort out the thing. But the resolution on the face of it reads pretty disturbing. I entirely, share the view expressed by the hon. Member Shri Chavda that the shortage being what it is, the total production should be equitably and proportionately and rationally distributed among all the State suffering from power cuts.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : Only the other day the same issue was raised and discussed in the other House and that statement as reported is not exactly the same as the Minister is now giving to the House. The Minister says that it is a national question. You will perhaps remember that since last March this issue was discussed several times in the form of call attention and questions and stereotyped answers were given by his predecessors just as the one he has given now, that such and such committee has been appointed and another committee had been set up to see if the first committee was functioning properly and so on. We find that the remedial measures was the setting up of a committee, nothing more. The whole cotton economy, starting from raw cotton and ending with the finished product is still predominantly under the control of the big monopoly houses and the result is while the raw cotton price is going down the price of finished product is going up. What is the reply of the Minister to this ? You are a new Minister with youthful vigour in you and I expect at least you to put the suggestion here to your Cabinet that you are here and now nationalising the whole textile industry; in that case you will not have a separate statement from Tamil Nadu and another from Maharashtra or West Bengal. The question relates to ten million people; they are spread all over the country, Tamil Nadu, Andhra, U.P., West Bengal, Maharashtra and other places; they are handloom weavers all. You will perhaps remember that when the Britishers came here they took the first step to see that the weaver of our country were destroyed; they cut their fingers. The same thing is repeated in

[Shri K. S. Chanda]

another form; you are forcing the weavers to starve and die peacefully. Many weavers in West Bengal Nadia and Hooghly have committed suicide because they could not survive this sort of shortage of yarn. My first point is whether you are going to nationalise the textile industry beginning from the purchase and sale of the raw cotton to finished products.

Regarding the Tamilnadu Assembly statement, you are perturbed. My question is this: There is a total shortage. To what extent is it? Are you prepared to see that it is equally shared by all the States? If the Tamil Nadu shortage is 75 per cent and in another State it is 5 or 10 per cent throughout the country you maintain the policy so that the shortage is equally shared by all the States.

Then comes the question of price. In his statement in the other House the Minister admitted that the rise in price was unjustified. It has gone up by 50 to 100 per cent. You are pleading as if you have nothing to do. The hoarders have hoarded. The bankers had given them credit to purchase it in large quantities and stock it. Then why are you here? You are not simply a spectator. You have some role to play. What have you done about this problem which is eating the lives of about 1 crore of people all over India? In States in Tamil Nadu, the weavers are offering satyagraha for what? For yarn at a reasonable price. You are accusing the State Governments sometimes that the whole stock is not lifted. In Tamil Nadu Assembly it has been pointed out that it is not a fact that they have not lifted the full Quota given to them. You cannot slip away with these lame excuses.

You have got the system of equal price for steel and coal all over the country. Why not introduce the same system in respect of cotton and yarn? Weavers meet us with tears in their eyes saying they have to pay even 100 per cent more sometimes than what the weavers in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu pay. Why is this discrimination towards

the eastern region? I know in Bihar there are a large number of families who live on the meagre income they got from weaving coarse cloth, towels etc. But they are also not getting yarn in proper time. So, the price all over the country must get yarn at the same price. If at the present moment you cannot bring a statutory legislation for that, at least you can give some subsidy to the weavers of West Bengal and the eastern region weavers and are dying. I come from that constituency. The remedies that have been suggested are stereotyped and the weavers will not be satisfied with it. I want to know whether any relief will be given to the weavers who are not getting any yarn (*Interruptions*). Can the minister and his supporters tell me why there was such an abnormal rise? There was a rise in price of 15 per cent upto, December. Suddenly, there was a jump by hundred per cent. Government is responsible for creating this condition. So it must take full responsibility for the maintenance of the starving weavers.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Though I heard some of the comments made by the hon. Member, I really do not know what questions he has put. I very much appreciate his anti-monopolist attitude. But I cannot share the view that he alone has a monopoly of the care, sympathy and anxiety for the condition of the weavers.

If only the hon. Member had gone through the statement he would have found that it is precisely to alleviate the sufferings of the poor weavers that we have brought this scheme before the House. He has stated that this scheme is stereotyped. I am convinced that he has not gone through it. Otherwise, both quantitatively and qualitatively, he would have found that it is a new scheme.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : I received the statement just when I was on my legs. So, it was not possible to go through it in full.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I can understand that point. But unstarved criticism should be avoided.

The question of supporting the monopolists is absolutely unfounded, because in the scheme we have made explicit provision for cent per cent procurement. Secondly, even in the matter of distribution, we are keeping absolute control over the mechanism and the agencies concerned. It is quite different from the scheme we tried previously.

Coming to the question of prices, it is because of the steep price rise since December, particularly evident from the figures of January and February, that we have been persuaded that we should do something and this is the result. We have decided that the price rise of the previous two months will be completely neutralised and the price level would be brought down to the December level. Some other factors that have to be taken into consideration are also mentioned in the statement. The whole scheme is to see that the role of hoarders and traders who corner the stocks is totally eliminated.

Then he said that there is some discrepancy between what I said the other day in Rajya Sabha and what I am now saying. There is no discrepancy; there is only some difference in the level of concretisation. Earlier, we were thinking along some lines and now we have got a concrete scheme. Before coming with this scheme, we discussed it with different sectors like handloom, powerloom and mills and trade unions. So, under the constraints this is a rational and acceptable scheme. Given the co-operation of the State Governments, M.Ps., MLAs. and trade unions, the criticism will prove unfounded and unjustified.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA :
I put a specific question regarding the equalisation of yarn price throughout the country. He has not replied to that.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA :
It is under the study of a high-power Committee.

श्री कवल मिश्र सचकर (कैसरिया):
अध्यक्ष जी, यंकी जी ने जो बयान दिया है ऐसे बयानों को हम पिछले

सालों से सुनते आ रहे हैं। मेरा ही ध्यावाकर्षण प्रस्ताव था जिसपर पहले फारेन ट्रेड मिनिस्टर ललितजी ने बयान दिया था और प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने भी यू० पी० के बुनकरों की समस्याओं के लिए ध्यावासन दिया था लेकिन उसके बावजूद आज एक करोड़ लोग हिन्दुस्तान के विभिन्न हिस्सों में, उत्तर प्रदेश में, बिहार में, बंगाल में, तमिलनाडू में, महाराष्ट्र में, मध्य प्रदेश में—इन तमाम इलाकों में करीब-करीब 20 लाख बीवर्स है और उनके परिवारों को भी ले लिया जाये तो एक करोड़ लोग भ्रष्ट भूखों भरने की स्थिति में हैं। यद्यपि सरकार को तकलीफ होगी लेकिन मैं कहूंगा कि आपके विभाग ने उनके साथ कासिलाना व्यवहार किया है। इस लिहाज से मैं आपके साथ कहना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे बयानों से परिणाम क्या होगा? कुछ नयी स्कीमें आपने दी हैं लेकिन उसके बावजूद परिणाम क्या होगा उसमें मुझे सन्देह हो रहा है क्योंकि ऐसे बयान कई दफा इस सदन में रखे गए हैं। मैं साफ तौर से कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपने जो बयान दिया है कि कानूनी कंट्रोल लगायेंगे सूत पर तो क्या पूरे सूत के प्रोडक्शन पर और डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन पर कानूनी कंट्रोल लगाने जा रहे हैं यानि जैसे चीनी पर कंट्रोल है, 70 प्रतिशत और 30 प्रतिशत, वैसे ही कुछ करने जा रहे हैं?

कूले क्या आप इस बात की भी वारन्टी देने आ रहे हैं कि बुनकरों को सीधे धातान ठंठ से सूत मिल सके? क्या इस प्रकार की भाष व्यवस्था कराते जा रहे हैं?

तीसरे—आपने कहा है कि हम ऐसे कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं जिनसे जो महंगाई सूत में बढी है वह न्यूट्रलाइज हो जायेगी। मैं कहता हूँ आजमगढ जिले में चार हजार पावरलूम और 35 हजार हैंडलूम चलते हैं और इस समय इस महीने में सूत का दाम 82 प्रतिशत बढ गया है जिसके चलते हैंडलूम बन्द हो रहे हैं और उसके परिणामस्वरूप बुनकर फाकाकशी कर रहे हैं। यही हालत बिजली की कटौती के कारण पावरलूम के मजदूरों की हैं। ऐसे लाखों लोग आज भूखो मरने की स्थिति में हैं। यह चिट्ठी हमारे पार्टी के सेक्रेटरी से हैंडलूम सेक्शन कमेटी की तरफ से आई है। ऐसी और भी बहुत सी चिट्ठियाँ हैं। पूरे उत्तर प्रदेश में आजमगढ, बस्ती, गोरखपुर में, बिहार में भागलपुर, बिहार शरीफ, चम्पारन के इलाके में ऐसे लोग हैं। तो ऐसी अवस्था में आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं? आपने कोई जरिया नहीं बताया है कि कितने दिनों में स्कीम लागू हो कर के सही मानो में जुलाहों को फायदा हो सकेगा?

मैं यह भी चाहूँगा कि जहाँ पावर की कटौती हो रही है उत्तर प्रदेश, पंजाब, हरियाणा में वहाँ क्या इस बात की गारन्टी देने जा रहे हैं, पावर के विषय में क्या ऐसी व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं कि पावरलूम को लगातार पावर मिले? साथ ही क्या आप अगली पंचवर्षीय योजना में इस बात के लिए व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं कि सूत का प्रोडक्शन इतना बढ़ाया जाये ताकि जुलाहों को नियमित रूप से सूत मिल सके। इसके अतिरिक्त आपने ऐसा कौन सा तरीका

इस्तेमाल किया है जिससे जो सही मायने में सूत का इस्तेमाल करते हैं बुनकर लोग उनको सीधे सस्ता सूत मिल सके? क्या आपने यह भी तय किया है या नहीं कि जहाँ पावर शॉर्टेज नहीं है वहाँ पर इतबार को भी कारखाने चालू रखें जिससे और लोगों को काम मिले तथा अधिक सूत तैयार किया जा सके जिससे जुलाहों को अधिक सूत मिल सके?

अंतिम बात यह है क्या आप ऐसी व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं या नहीं कि ऐसा हैंडलूम बोर्ड बनावें और उसमें हैंडलूम के प्रतिनिधियों को भी लें? जो उन की समस्याओं को सुने, और उस के जरिये उन की समस्याओं को हल करने में उन का पार्टिसिपेशन हो, इस बात की गारन्टी आप करने जा रहे हैं या नहीं? इन प्रश्नों का उत्तर मंत्री महोदय देने की कृपा करे।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA
I think, I have answered some of the questions raised by the hon. Member

About the scheme of implementation, I said in Bombay on the 5th that, within seven days, we would announce the scheme. It is nice, within four days, we are announcing the scheme today. He asked me when we are going to implement. Right from today. Since the decision has been taken and the scheme has been drawn up, right from today we are going to implement it.

About power shortage, as I have said, it is a natural calamity resulting in power cut and, therefore power shortage. We have to put up with these difficulties, whether we are in position or in opposition, this shortage has to be shared, whether we are in this State or in that State. I very much share, as I have said, the anxiety of the hon. members for the suffering, and it is for that that we have drawn up the scheme under the constraints which are there.

About power shortage, I have already said in the body of my own statement that I will be writing to the Chief Ministers of States requesting them to do, even within the framework of the constraints of power cut, what best they can to make it available for the weaker sector of the textile industry.

Secondly, the question of power shortage and the remedial measures is a high level question, and an inter-ministerial committee of the Union Government is seized of the matter; it has been engaging the attention of the highest authority and some measures are being taken.

About distribution, I have said that I am addressing the Chief Ministers immediately to let me know whether they will be able to retire the documents and take up delivery and distribution of yarn within their States. In case they need assistance, we have our machinery to help them. But the most important help will be of the watch-dog committee, as I have said, which, I suggest, should consist of different Party members, MLAs. and MPs., trade union leaders, who can help a lot in the successful implementation of the scheme.

श्री कमल निश मजुकर : बहुत से पावरलूम वालों ने जैनरेंटिंग सैट्स को इम्पोर्ट करने के लिये आप के यहाँ प्राईनापल दिये हैं, लेकिन उन पर अभी तक कोई कार्यवाही नहीं हुई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब तक पावर शॉर्टेज है, उस कमी को जैनरेंटिंग सैट लगा कर दूर कर सकें इस के बारे में आप कुछ व्यवस्था करेंगे ? इस के बारे में मंत्री जी ने कुछ नहीं कहा है।

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : It is not within my ministerial competence to give a categorical answer to this question, because, as I have already said, a high-powered inter-ministerial body is looking into the matter; it is being examined very expeditiously and a decision will be taken quickly. So,

on behalf of this Ministry, I cannot take a piecemeal decision which affects so many other sectors of industry and so many other Ministries.

SHRI R. K. SINHA : (Faizabad) : I have heard the statement of the Minister. It is good that he has spelt out the details of the programme of action. He has said that there would be no half-hearted measures. But I would like to say that in an industry which employs ten million of people, the problem is there—of the groaning populace in India; there are ten million families who cannot be provided for if there is a crisis in this industry. People, mostly Harijans and Muslims, are on the verge of starvation in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and different parts of the country. It is good that the Minister has held discussions with the Ministers in the States. It is also good that he has held discussions with the Planning Commission and I am sure that he will not take the full time limit of four months because this limit of four months should be used for examining a long-range programme for ameliorating the lot of the people who are suffering. Power shortage is a lame excuse because only if we look at the figures, in 1972 there was a record production of 468 million kg. while in 1970 it was 406 million kg. There were invisible exports to some countries and cornering of stocks. If the Ministry acts positively, the partial shortage which is there should be controlled.

Then, the Minister in the Rajya Sabha had said that there will be a price pushing back. Therefore, when the price fixation is examined, it should be put at a lower level. The Minister should remember that his predecessor has been told by representatives of Parliament that there were stocks worth Rs. 50 crores lying in the godowns and they could not be sold because the products of the handloom industry could not compete with the products of the mills. They were proposed to be taken over and exported to Bangia Desh and other countries. What is the Ministry going to do about it ?

Then, the friend who asked questions earlier has spoken about the Handloom Board. Why can't they set up the Handloom Board as a statutory body instead of filling it up with officers who do not know and who cannot understand the problems of handloom industry? Why not you set up spinning mills also if there is going to be a ban of export of yarn from Tamil Nadu and also if there is a question of Maharashtra stopping exports of yarn to other States? Why not this Ministry examine the question of setting up spinning mills in major centres where the handloom industry is concentrated? Spinning mills should be set up in Azamgarh and Faizabad where the small scale industry is already there. This should be examined and also adequate bank credit made available to these small weavers, whether it be power loom industry or handloom industry.

If the revised statement of the Minister had been laid on the Table of the House earlier, there would have been a more authentic and more objective examination of this question. It is a problem of not only reduction of the yarn prices but also allocation of yarn on the basis of the needs of the different States for the handloom, power loom and the hosiery industries.

Then, it should also be ensured that yarn of inferior or wrong quality is not manufactured. Wrong supplies have been made in the past. The solution similar to the one offered to the sugar industry—half control, half de-control and now voluntary control is all right, but let the voluntary control be very very strict. The yarn producers in the country have taken the Foreign Trade Ministry for a ride in the past. They have cheated the Government, they have cheated ten million weavers in the country and the Ministry has come out for the first time with a positive, dynamic statement. Let there be an implementation of the same. This should be examined very thoroughly and also implemented.

I wish to remind the Minister that there were conferences in the past. (Interruptions) This is something which affects the people, nearly 10 million families are affected. On

the 19th April, 1972 we had convened a conference where the Ministers were present. Certain decisions were taken. The Chief Ministers of Punjab and U.P. came to that meeting. Officers from different parts of the country came to this meeting. Then, we were told that by 24th April a decision would be taken. We were told about that voluntary decision. But that 'voluntary decision' was never brought into practice. I am happy that our dynamic Minister has tried to appreciate the problem and I am sure he should be able to tackle it. It must be done on an awareness that this industry is about to die unless energetic steps are taken immediately. Let them also examine scientifically as to which are the chemicals and dyes which go into the production of yarn. Let them go into the question of the availability of raw materials. Birla monopoly is on and the raw material is the basic medium through which the prices rise high. These are all the things which must be scientifically examined. He mentioned about certain bodies and committees to be set up. Let them be bodies which into the vitals of these who want to cheat the majority of the people of this country.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : Most of the suggestions made by the hon. Member are so acceptable to me that I do not know where I should differ and on which should I comment. However, I would like to tell him only one thing and it is this.

We do not believe certainly in any half-hearted measures. We thought that with the cooperation of the industry, the voluntary scheme will work. But that expectation of ours did not materialise. So, enriched with our not-so-sweet experience, I should say, we have come up now with a different sort of scheme where we have not left room for their doing anything wrong. I entirely agree with my hon. friend (Shri R. K. Sinha) that merely in terms of the power-cut, the price rise cannot be accounted for. The element of cornering by some unscrupulous elements in the trade must also be taken note of. I agree on that. It is these very loopholes which we are plugging. But the only point that I want to emphasise is, simply because there are some

black sheep in the industry, we should not condemn the industry wholesale. This is my only submission. All the very constructive suggestions made by hon. Members will be looked into and I may say, while we taken the necessary concrete administrative measures, we will be guided by the constructive suggestions made by hon. friend.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : Sir, there is a mistake in the statement. Under Para 2(3) he says :

“The manufacture of yarn for civil consumption shall have to pack... not less than 30 per cent in the form of cones (meant for power looms).”

Whereas, in para 2(1) he says that producers of cotton yarn would be prohibited from selling yarn ‘except in small quantities in the form of beams (meant for power looms).’ There is an apparent contradiction in the statement. Handlooms use yarn in the form of ‘hanks’ Powerlooms use yarn in the form of ‘beams’. Textile Mills use warp in the form of ‘cones’. I think there is some sort of confusion in the mind of the hon. Minister.

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA : I am not confused, Sir, I would request the hon. Member to get necessary help and guidance from the people who know things better.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

ओ हुकम चन्द कछबाय (मूरेना) :
एयर इंडिया की हड़ताल होने जा रही है।
पंद्रह मादमियों को निकाल दिया गया है।

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister will make a statement later on.

(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ओ मुझे लिख कर देता है उसको मैं काल करता हूँ। बिना नोटिस के आप खड़े हो जाते हैं। रीब कलम पकता है। जिन्होंने नोटिस दिया है उनको इजाजत देना।

12.55 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : On behalf of Shri K. R. Ganesh, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of Central Sales Tax (Registration and Turnover) (Amendment) Rules, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 56 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th February 1973, under sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4430/73.]

(2) A copy of the Income-tax Officers (Class I) Service (Regulation of Seniority) Rules, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 54 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1973, issued under article 309 of the Constitution, together with an explanatory memorandum. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4431/73.]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959 :—

(i) The Post Office Savings Certificates (Amendment) Rules, 1973, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 116 in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 1973.

(ii) The National Savings Certificates (Fourth Issue) (Amendment) Rules, 1973, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 117 in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 1973.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4432/73.]

(4) A copy of the Post Office Savings Banks (Amendment) Rules, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 118 in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 1973, under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Banks Act, 1973. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4433/73.]