

for Rs. 15 crores only. It is the minimal amount fixed for any credit plan, and out of this amount, they give various loans, grants etc. I would like to know, if this amount could be increased.

Secondly, the economic growth and development does not trickle down to the bottom rung of the society. It gets stagnated somewhere at the top and does not go down. Even for the green revolution, the credit was taken by the bigger farmers and landlords. Will a proper credit plan be prepared which can go to the lowest rung of society and benefit them, as far as employment and growth is concerned?

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that 40 per cent of the total advances will go to the priority sector. Twenty-five per cent of this 40 per cent will go to the weaker section, and last year the amount outstanding in this priority sector was Rs. 3704 crores. Under DRI scheme, we had given Rs. 444 crores to about 42,95,000 people. Under IRDP Programme, we have given Rs. 2910 crores to more than one crore fifty seven lakhs. We are going to achieve the target set for the Sixth Five Year Plan. Our target was Rs 3000 crores and Rs. 1800 crores in the form of subsidy. We have crossed the target so far as the subsidy is concerned. We have already given Rs. 1,554 crores on fifty-fifty basis, i.e. 50 per cent coming from the Central Budget and 50 per cent coming from the State Government. So far as the direct finance to agricultural sector is concerned, we have to give direct assistance to the agricultural sector, which will be 16 per cent by 1987. Here also we have given Rs. 5898.95 crores to the farmers as direct assistance. Under the educated Self-Employment Scheme, we have sanctioned Rs. 401 crores to more than one lakh forty two thousand educated unemployed youth. This is the programme, and nobody can say that the amount is not adequate. On the contrary, we are going to meet

the requirements of the weaker sections as stated by the Finance Minister.

#### Worker's Strike in NALCO

\*898. **SHRI K. PRADHANI :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work in the National Aluminium Company's Aluminium Refinery Project at Damanjodi in Koraput district has been affected due to workers' strike recently;

(b) if so, the extent to which the work was affected in the bauxite mines of NALCO;

(c) the reasons of the strike organised by the workers at the project area; and

(d) the steps taken to redress the genuine grievances of the workers?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (d). The work in the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) was hampered by labour belonging to various contractors stopping work between 20-3-1985 and 29-3-1985 at site on account of a fatal accident to a workman of a sub-contractor of BHEL. Initially workmen demanded compensation to the heir of the deceased, funeral charges and arranging to send the dead body of the deceased to hometown, which were complied with by the contractor.

New demands were subsequently raised which included direct employment of the heir in NALCO, and employment by NALCO of contract labour on completion of the project etc. A number of meetings were held between the representatives of the Union and

the management in the presence of the State Labour authorities where BHEL agreed to employ a nominee of the deceased family. The strike was called off and work resumed from 30-3-1985.

**SHRI K. PRADHANI :** The Minister in his reply has stated that there was strike in NALCO due to the death of a worker, working under its contractors. May I know from the hon. Minister what was the nature of death and whether any steps were taken to prevent such accidents and what was the compensation paid to the worker's family.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** Sir, according to the information, one Mohammad Tajub Khan, a labourer working in M/s North India Erectors, a sub-contractor of BHEL at Boiler Unit No.2 in Damanjodi met with a fatal accident on 19-3-85 at 5.45 PM. He had climbed on the boiler erection which is about 25 feet high and from there he slipped and fell down. That was how the fatal accident occurred. This led to the stoppage of work by workers of other contractors. In all there are about 49 sub-contractors engaged for the entire work, by the main contractors for erection work, etc. in the Damanjodi area. This was of the accident that occurred and because this, the workers spontaneously responded and struck work. They were making certain demands for funeral expenses, transportation of the body to his home district area and so on. Those demands were met by the contractor. The compensation as per law was also paid, which was about Rs. 17,000. I do not have the exact amount. Then they said that was not enough. They wanted an heir of the deceased to be employed directly by NALCO. The contractor was a sub-contractor of BHEL and NALCO was not directly concerned. But the employees of the contractors raised the demand that an heir should be appointed and this was going on and this was how the strike was protected for about nine days. Ulti-

mately, BHEL agreed to employ the heir of the deceased and the strike was withdrawn; the strike lasted for nine days.

**SHRI K. PRADHANI :** There was a strike from 20th March 1985 to 29th March, 1985. Another strike was from First June to 3rd June 1984. The present estimate of this project is Rs. 2,200 crores, but the original estimate was about Rs. 1200 crores; it has gone up by Rs. 1000 crore. Is this increase in cost of this project due to labour trouble or there is some other reason for delay of this project? If so, what are the other reasons for the delay in construction of this project?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** There is no delay on account of labour. In fact, there are not many strikes in this project and not many man days are lost; and the project is likely to be completed on schedule. The cost escalation has gone up because of normal escalation and inflationary pressure in the cost of equipment, construction cost, civil construction cost and all that. As you have mentioned, it is not on account of (1) delay or (2) labour trouble.

**SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :** Has the Government made any enquiry into the discontent prevailing among the local tribal workers in Damanjodi? Is it not a fact that the contractors who are working at Damanjodi, they are all from outside Orissa and they are trying to get labourers from outside Orissa; and it is because of this reason that there is discontent among the local workers every day, every month and they have also represented to the Government? Will the hon. Minister be kind enough at least to go into this discontent among the local people because employment has not been provided to the local people by the contractors because they are outside contractors and they bring labour from outside? As a result of not providing employment to the local people, this discontent is going on; whether this has been gone into by the Government.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** We have made certain enquiries. As is well-known, it is the policy of the Government that, whenever a work is started in any area, maximum employment opportunities must be given to the people of that area; and here because a large number of people are tribals, we are more keen that tribal people should be given maximum employment opportunities. I agree that the contractors may be from outside Orissa because it is not possible to get experienced contractors always locally. But the number of people employed at Damanjodi is 8,695 and at Angul 12,414. At Damanjodi in Koraput where there is a tribal belt, the maximum number of people employed are unskilled labour who do not require previous experience and they are from local area and from tribal people. We shall ensure that this is what is done.

#### Problems Facing Handloom Sector

\*899. **SHRI AMARSINH RATHWA :** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the main problems, the handloom sector is facing;

(b) the steps being taken to meet their demands in regard to yarn;

(c) the steps taken or being taken to popularise this industry in rural areas and particularly in Adivasi areas of the country; and

(d) the details of help being given to establish handloom industry in those areas ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) The main problems faced by the handloom sector relate to supply of raw material at reasonable prices and marketing of the finished products.

(b) To meet the demand in regard to yarn, Government have taken a number of measures like the imposition of hank yarn obligation by which all mills producing yarn for marketing have to pack at least 50% of their marketable yarn in the form of hanks. Out of this, 85% has to be in counts upto 40s. Besides, some State Governments have made arrangements for the supply of yarn to the weavers through yarn depots set up in handloom concentration areas. The National Handloom Development Corporation has already opened yarn depots in Guwahti and Bihar Shariff and is planning to open more such yarn depots in other areas. It is also supplying yarn to State Handloom agencies in Kerala and West Bengal.

(c) and (d). Several schemes are being implemented to help the weavers to organise themselves into Cooperatives. For weavers outside the Cooperatives handloom development Corporations have been set up by various State Governments to organise their production and marketing activity. As bulk of the weavers are located in rural areas, the benefit of these schemes is expected to flow to this industry in the rural areas. Some of the important schemes, being implemented are as follows :

(i) Share capital assistance for Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies, apex handloom weavers societies and State Handloom Development Corporations;

(ii) Loan and grant assistance to handloom weavers in the Coope-