

(ii) **Measures needed to improve Economic Conditions of Weavers**

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर (गोरखपुर) : सूत और केमिकल्स के मूल्य में लगातार वृद्धि होने के कारण बुनकरों के समक्ष घोर संकट उत्पन्न हो गया है। सूत की चोर बाजारी तथा लोगों द्वारा मुनाफाखोरी किये जाने के फलस्वरूप हथकरघा उद्योग भीषण कठिनाइयों के दौर से गुजर रहा है। वर्तमान स्थिति को सुधारने में सरकार को शीघ्र प्रभावी कदम उठाने चाहिए। आर्थिक संकट के कारण लगभग 25 प्रतिशत बुनकर परिवार पहले से ही कुपोषण के शिकार हो गए हैं। यदि सरकार ने सूत और केमिकल्स के मूल्य को तत्काल कम करने की दिशा में कदम न उठाया तो स्थिति और गंभीर हो सकती है। यह आवश्यक हो गया है कि सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में स्थापित सूत के कारखानों को यह निर्देश दिया जाय कि वे सूत का अधिक से अधिक उत्पादन करें और उक्त सूत को हथकरघा उद्योग के लिए सुरक्षित रखा जाए। सरकार को यह भी सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि क्षेत्रीय स्पीनिंग मिल्स पहले क्षेत्रीय मांगों को ही पूरा करें। साथ ही बुनकरों द्वारा तैयार किए गए कपड़ों के निर्यात की व्यवस्था करने से बुनकरों की आर्थिक स्थिति में पर्याप्त सुधार किया जा सकता है। अतः सरकार को इस ओर भी ध्यान देना चाहिए।

(iii) **Delay in establishing steel processing plant in Ghazipur**

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh is economically and industrially one of the most backward district in U. P. Patel Commission as far back as in 1964 recommended establishment of heavy industries in that district.

The people of that district have been demanding such industries for a very long time. They were very much glad to hear the declaration of the then Minister of Steel and Mines in one of the meetings of the Consultative Committee attached to his Ministry regarding the establishment of a steel processing plant in Nilkar Nagar in that district. The Government of U. P. has also offered sites for that plant. According to my information the site has been selected for that purpose.

The work on the project has not yet been started. The Minister for Steel and Mines had informed me some time back that the project is in the formulation stage at the various levels.

I urge upon the Government to take early action for starting work on the project.

(iv) **Need for relaxation in the restrictions imposed on entry of Bangladesh traders to the weekly markets held at various places of Khasi and Jaintia Hills District**

SHRI BAJUBAM R. KHARLUKHI (Shillong) : Sir, the border people of Khasi and Jaintia hills in Meghalaya have been facing severe economic hardships in that they are not able to market their agricultural produce at competitive prices due to non-coming of traders from Bangladesh on market days. Agriculture produce like oranges, betel leaves and arcaemuts have to be sold to local traders at throw away prices while the prices of the essential commodities are beyond the purchasing capacity of the people. The resultant effect is that 95% of the people live far below the poverty line.

The non-coming of Bangladesh traders is reportedly due to entry restrictions imposed at all check posts with the result that the entire trade and business has become the sole monopoly of handful of traders who are exploiting the situation to their advantage.

[Shri Bajuban R. Kharlubhi]

I strongly urge upon the Government of India to take immediate measures to relax the restrictions and give regulated permission to Bangladesh traders to enter the weekly border markets at Dawki, Balat, Shella, Lyngkhat, Mawdon and Majaio.

(v) **Cardamom Replantation Programme**

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL (Ernakulam) India has an estimated hectare of 93,947 of which registered area is 86,451 hectares. The main cardamom producing States are Kerala 60%, Karnataka 30% and Tamilnadu 10%. Average production per year is 3,433 M.T. and 50% to 60% production is exported, giving an average of 29.50 crores per year. There is a strong competition from other cardamom producing nations. The majority of holdings in India are small or medium sizes. The productivity and production for the years 1980 to 1983 is alarmingly negative; so to say, minus 29.3% growth rate is noted in 1982-83. This is mainly due to the lack of replantation, incentives, drought etc

A survey conducted in the cardamom growing tracts revealed that about 30% of the cardamom plantations in the country totally perished on account of the drought during 1982 and early part of 1983. Consequently the Board has proposed a crash replantation programme for 15,000 hectares on 10-8-1983 to the Ministry.

Production has dwindled considerably during 1982-83. Unless the Replantation Programme submitted by the Board is cleared before 15th of April, 1984 one season for Replantation will be lost. In terms of money, this will account to a loss of Rs. 15 crores per annum on 500 M. T. of Cardamom. I urge upon the Government of India to sanction the cardamom Replantation programme in drought affected areas immediately. Otherwise further losses will be inflicted not only on farmers but the country also will also be losing considerable amount of foreign exchange earnings.

(vi) **Directions to F.C.I. for immediate purchase of wheat from Punjab, Haryana and U. P. Mandies**

श्री मनी राम बागड़ी (हिसार) : मान्य-वर, हरियाणा, उत्तर प्रदेश, दिल्ली, राजस्थान और पंजाब की गेहूं की अगेती फसल निकल चुकी है और गेहूं मंडियों में आ रहा है। सरकारी खाद्य निगम और व्यापारियों की मिली भगत से किसानों का गेहूं खरीदा नहीं जाता जिससे गेहूं 136 रु० क्विंटल से लेकर 145 रु० क्विंटल तक किसानों को बेचनी पड़ रही है। सरकारी निगम को तुरन्त गेहूं मार्किट में लाने से पहले सपोर्ट प्राइस पर खरीद शुरू कर देनी चाहिए थी, परन्तु हमेशा ऐसा होता है कि जब गरीब किसान लुट जाता है तब वह मार्किट में आती है। मैंने जीन्द, नरवाना, गोहाना, हिसार और रोहतक मंडी में खास तौर से घूम कर पता किया। मैं चाहूंगा कि खाद्य निगम के अधिकारियों को आवश्यक निर्देश दिये जायें और तुरन्त गेहूं की सरकारी खरीद शुरू की जाये।

(vii) **Shifting of Railway Crossing gate between Chola and Sikanderpur Stations to avert Accidents**

SHRI BANARSI DASS (Bulandshahr) : Under Rule 377 I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance :

There was a railway crossing gate at 883 K. M. between the stations Chola and Sikanderpur. Due to consolidation, this main crossing gate has become obsolete. There is a prosperous village Khanpur at K. M. 881. Across the Railway line, there is a high school and this village inhabited on both sides of the railway line. Agricultural fields also are across the railway line. The crossing of the railway line by the villagers and school-going children is very hazardous. Last year, two school-