

important self-employment scheme. I am given to understand that this move of the Government was basically aimed at curbing bogus societies of handloom weavers. It is not fair to discourage genuine societies just to curb some bogus ones. Such a move is likely to be self-defeating in the future.

I urge upon the hon. Minister for Textiles to take necessary steps to bring back the rebate scheme so as to benefit the lakhs of handloom weavers of Tamil Nadu.

(vi) Need to allow Government of Maharashtra to purchase Wheat directly from Punjab and Haryana

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): Sir, on 18th September, 1996, the Food Corporation of India informed the Government of Maharashtra about the revision of price structure of wheat.

This revision caused injustice to the public and the Government of Maharashtra. The revised price has been enhanced by Rs. 200 approximately.

Previously, the FCI used to supply wheat to its godowns. And from such godowns, the Government of Maharashtra used to collect wheat for public distribution system and for open market at reasonable rates fixed by the State Government.

Since these revised rates are exorbitant, the Government of Maharashtra requested the Central Government to allow them to purchase wheat directly from the godowns of the FCI in Punjab and Haryana at the rate of Rs. 4,900 per metric tonne fixed by the Government of India. The transportation charges introduced by the FCI are exorbitant.

The private traders are allowed to purchase wheat directly from Punjab and Haryana. However, the Government of Maharashtra has been denied this facility. It is, therefore, requested that this matter may be looked into at the earliest and the Government of Maharashtra be allowed to use their own transport for purchase of wheat from the godowns of the FCI in Punjab and Haryana as per the quantity allotted by the Government of India to that State.

(vii) Need to provide sufficient irrigation facilities to Deoria, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI (Salempur) : Salempur Tehsil in district Deoria of Uttar Pradesh is adjoining the Bihar State. The land of three tehsils of Salempur, Rudrapur and Deoria under the Deoria district falls between two rivers Gandak and Ghaghra and is very fertile. Wheat, rice and sugarcane are the main crops of this area in addition to

cultivation of oil seeds and pulses. But the farmers of this area have to depend upon nature to earn their livelihood. Prosperity of farmers of this area depends on rains but if nature does not favour them, they have to face starvation mainly due to inadequate irrigation facilities there. There is no canal and tube wells are there just for name sake. Population wise Deoria is the largest district of U.P. and in it Tehsil Salempur has the largest population. But so far no irrigation facilities have been provided to the farmers of this area. The land between Gandak and Ghaghra river is plain and very fertile but in want of irrigation facility, the farmers of this area are forced to live in poverty.

If a network of tubewells is provided in this area, the farmers can match the performance of the farmers of Haryana and Punjab in respect of wheat production and solve their own problems beside providing large quantity of foodgrain to the country. The land can be highly beneficial to the farmers if tubewells are provided there in adequate number.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take necessary action in this regard.

15.32 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION

Re : Disapproval of the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 and Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Amendment Bill

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up Statutory Resolution.

Shri Annasahib M.K. Patil — not present

Shri Pramod Mahajan — not present

Shri Ram Naik — not present

Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava

Now, the time allotted for this item and consideration and passing of the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Amendment Bill, to be moved by Shri P. Chidambaram is one hour. So, kindly be brief.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, it would take only a few minutes.