

[Shri Ahmed M. Patel]

cotton growers in Gujarat have been created on account of increase in production and lowbuying by mills. Gujarat State produces 20 per cent of the total cotton production in the country. The following developments are responsible for the distressing situation :

- (1) The new textile policy has yet to bring tangible results, and out of 8,00,000 powerlooms, about 2,40,000 have been shut down. The prices of yarn are also cut down by 20% to 25%.
- (2) The textile mills have huge stocks of unsold yarn and fabrics.
- (3) The world cotton market indicates that the cotton supply is in excess of demand, and the task of increased export by the country would be more difficult.
- (4) The total world production rose sharply from 67.53 million bales in 1982-83 to 84.3 million bales in 1984-85.

I urge the Government to take following measures immediately :

1. The new textile policy be implemented, assuring the off-take of cotton at remunerative prices and re-formulation of functions of Cotton Corporation of India, to include price stabilization operations.
2. The Gujarat Cotton Federation may be authorized to make purchases under the scheme, with adequate finance. Union Government should accept the responsibility of compensating losses to the extent of support price stabilization purchases.
3. The C.C.I. and other exporting agencies should be permitted to export at least 5 lakh bales.
4. For purchases at remunerative prices and export, the RBI and NABARD should modify their credit policies.

5. It is learnt that there are certain irregularities in purchase of cotton, and I hope the Government will look into them.

(ii) Need to provide jobs to the displaced persons and absorb at least 3,000 more persons before the completion of the first phase of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY (Visakhapatnam) : The Government's policy of providing jobs to one able-bodied member of each household of the displaced families in Viskhapatnam Steel Plant area is being flouted. Out of thirteen thousand displaced (13,000) families, only about 1,380 persons have been so far provided with jobs.

The Steel Plant authorities are not undertaking any work directly, but employing contractors even for maintenance of the township. The sweepers, gardeners and Class IV jobs all come under the purview of the private contractors, and the displaced persons are ignored. In spite of repeated assurances, the programme of year-wise recruitment was not worked out. In spite of the decisions earlier taken in 1983, the Government have failed to formulate a programme for self-employment opportunities to displaced persons with Central assistance. The payment of compensation at market rate was so far denied to them, in spite of the prevailing ruling decision of the Supreme Court to that effect, dragging them to protracted litigation.

I, therefore, urge on the Government to fulfil their commitment of providing jobs to the displaced persons and absorb at least 3,000 more persons before the first phase of the plant in Visakhapatnam, besides paying them compensation at market rate.

(iii) Need to arrange live telecast of Car Festival of Lord Shri Jagannath held every year at Puri Dham.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : The world famous car festival of Lord Shri Jagannath every year at Puri Dham attracts millions of devotees and tourists from all over the world. This