

direct Express Trains.

[*Translation*]

(v) Need to take steps to revive the Government Opium and Alkaloid Works, Ghazipur (Uttar Pradesh)

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur): The Government Opium and Alkaloid Works, Ghazipur, U.P. is one of the oldest industrial units in the country. The Opium Unit was established in 1820 and its sister wing of Alkaloid in 1942. Since then it has been a source of income to the Government exchequer earning foreign exchange and a means of livelihood to the workers of this factory. All along the years it was a profit earning unit but now it is being classified as one of the losing units. The industry is making losses as the building and machinery in use are out of date, the rate of coal consumption is very high, unnecessary establishments and offices have been opened in the big cities like DELHI, Gwalior and Lucknow; and the price of products which is much below its cost prices has not been revised for long.

In 1984-85, a huge amount was spent in procuring modern machinery from abroad which is still lying unused blocking about a crore of rupees.

Instead of modernising the unit and establishing subsidiaries which may consume its finished products, the government is contemplating to close one shift in the factory.

I request the hon. Finance Minister to look into the problems of this industry and take urgent necessary action to remove the bottlenecks so that this industry is revived to its old glory.

(vi) Demand for implementing the Mahajan Commission's Report on Maharashtra-Karnataka Boundary dispute

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): The statement made by the Maharashtra Chief Minister in the Maharashtra Assembly recently that Maharashtra has offered Rs. 100 crores to Karnataka in lieu of Belgaum has hurt the feelings of the people of Karnataka. So far as Karnataka is concerned, Belgaum question is a settled issue. The Centre should advise Maharashtra not to re-open the issue. It is nearly 20 years since the Mahajan Commission Report was published. Instead of implementing it, the Union Government is keeping quiet over the matter. I strongly urge the Union Government to implement the Mahajan Commission Report.

(vii) Demand for setting up a fund for rehabilitation of workers returning to Kerala after termination of their contracts in the Gulf countries.

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram): A large number of Keralites working in the gulf-countries are returning as the job opportunities have come down there. Most of these people were poor workers who had gone in search of jobs after selling almost every valuable thing they had. Through their hard work they earned foreign exchange for the country. After returning they are facing unemployment. Kerala is already facing acute unemployment with 28 lakhs of educated people in the live register of employment exchanges. It is beyond the capacity of the State to provide jobs to these people who after living in comparatively better conditions find it difficult to adjust to the new situation. This will lead to social tensions in the State.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to set up a fund for the rehabili-

[Sh. K. Mohandas]

tation of the workers who have returned after the termination of their contracts.

[*Translation*]

- (viii) **Demand for implementing the UNDP schemes in order to cope with the drought situation, especially in the Bundelkhand area of U.P.**

SHRI BHISHMA DEV DUBE (Banda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is an agricultural country 80 per cent of the total population depends on agriculture. 90% of the total land is unirrigated and depends on rain. Last year the people faced the severest drought in the 100 years, which proves that excessive dependence on rain is dangerous.

At present, I want to mention the critical situation of Bundelkhand, a drought prone and backward area of Uttar Pradesh, where 80 per cent of the land is still unirrigated, and even in the so called irrigated land irrigation facilities are not available through Government measures. The drought of the last year is a living example of it.

A scheme was prepared under UNDP in 1978 to cope with the drought situation and the problems of irrigation under which ground water was to be brought to the surface by installing tubewells. This ambitious scheme was to be included in the Sixth Five Year Plan. But it has not found a place even in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Under this scheme, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Banda, Allahabad, Banaras and the Mirzapur plateau were to be benefitted. Survey of this place has proved the possibility of huge amount of water available there.

I request the Government to implement the UNDP scheme without any delay.

12.19 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1988-89 —
CONTD.

[*English*]

MINISTRY OF TEXTILES — *CONTD.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Textiles.

SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Deputy Speaker, with reference to the textile policy we will see that there are various aspects. After the new textile policy was announced in 1984-85 we have produced about 1382 million kg of yarn. By 1986-87 it has risen to 1526 million kg but unfortunately in 1988 there is a decline in the production of textile yarn. On the cloth side also though in 1984-85 it was about 1214 million metres, in 1986-87 it has gone up to 1298 metres, but there is also a decline in 1988. If we look at the production of cotton, in 1985-86 we produced 107 lakh bales, but in 1987-88 it has come down to 87 lakh bales. This is a policy matter in which we have to stabilise right from production of cotton up to the mills production because textile is the core of agriculture basic development and create a lot of employment potentialities in this country.

On the side of the textiles, there are three categories — the mills, the handlooms and the powerlooms. the policy of the Government is not properly stabilized. There are lacunae in various measures. The sickness of the mills have increased substantially. In 1985-86, only about seventy mills have been closed. In 1987, it has jumped up to 120 mills and in 1988 it has gone up to 133 mills. The unemployment in the mill sector has gone up from 95,000 workers in 1985 to 1,78,000 workers in 1988. That shows, the Govern-