

sumers, there are Essential Commodities Act, food Adulteration Act, Standards of Weights and Measures Act and M.R.T.P. Act in this country and only recently a new law has also been enacted for the protection of consumers.' But, inspite of all these laws in the country, the rights of the consumers are not being protected. There should be the price printed at every meter of the cloth and all the commodities should be made available in such packets on which the price of the commodity should be got printed so that the consumers do not pay a higher price therefor to the traders and if the traders demand a higher price, the consumers may get an action initiated against them. The rights of the consumers, instead of publishing them in the pamphlets or booklets, should be propagated through Radio and T.V. Consumer Councils should be set up in every locality and village so that these councils may go to courts in case a trader weighs less, asks for a higher price or sells adulterated commodities. A text on the rights of consumers should be included in the textbooks of 5th to 10th standard. In order to strengthen the public distribution system, the officers and the owners of fair price shops should be made individually responsible. The Government should also take immediate steps to check the prices of vegetables. Recently there has been a spurt in the prices of milk and ghee. The Government should take necessary steps in this regard. A campaign should be launched to help the consumers to have the awareness of their rights.

[English]

- (iv) **Need to allocate funds to the government of Bihar for anti-erosion and flood protection projects for Bhojpur district of Bihar**

PROF. K.K. TEWARY (Buxar): I draw the attention of the Government to the imminent threat posed to the famous city of Buxar by massive erosion caused by the Ganges.

The relentless fury of the river has already eroded a big chunk of the ancient

fort which has so far registered a total change in to the course of the river. It is easy to gauge the enormity of the problem by the fact that a large number of villages downstream have already been wiped out and hundreds of acres of diara land rendered into sand dunes or vast stretches of water. Lakhs of people living and cultivating their fertile lands on the banks of the river now face the sure prospect of turning into paupers and nomads without land or even dwelling places.

My repeated requests to Government for taking immediate steps in this regard have borne no fruits so far.

I may once again remind the Union Government that this problem cannot be tackled by the State Government with their meagre resources and limited technical base. And if there is further delay in taking effective anti-erosion measures, the river which now forms Bihar's boundary with UP will flow right through the middle of Bhojpur district.

This unprecedented calamity can be faced only if the Union Government comes out with massive financial help to the State Government and ensures that speedy measures are taken to tackle the problem.

I urge upon the Minister of Water Resources Development to allocate necessary funds and impress upon the State Government to prepare a comprehensive anti-erosion and flood protection project for district Bhojpur in Bihar.

- (v) **Need to extend the railway line from Berhampur to Dasapala**

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): The recent announcement of Hon'ble Railway Minister at Bhubaneswar that he will reconsider the establishment of a railway line from Khurda to Bolangir in Orissa has raised high hopes in the minds of general public. Since the British time, as it is evident from the B.N. Railway map, survey had been conducted for a railway-line from Berhampur in Ganjam District to the then Russelkunda now Bhanjanagar, but that has

[Shri Somnath Rath]

not been implemented as yet. A port has been established at Gopalpur-on-Sea near Berhampur, Ganjam District, Phoolbani District, Bolangir District and Kalahandi District are the hinterlands of this port. There is no railway line at all in Phoolbani District. To develop these areas providing transport facilities and to connect with Gopalpur Port, it is necessary that the railway line from Berhampur through the interior of Ganjam District is extended upto Dasapala or Boudh to connect the proposed railway line from Khurda to Bolangir. Under these changed circumstances, the RITES may be entrusted with the survey of railway line from Berhampur through the interior of Ganjam District without any further delay.

(vi) Need to take steps to overcome power crisis in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): On account of acute power shortage, most of the industries in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are facing closure and production losses. There is also no possibility of these States getting over power shortage in the near future. The loss on account of this power shortage on the industrial and agricultural fronts in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu is assessed to be of the order of Rs. 1,000 crores for this year. The installed industrial capacity in all these highly industrialised States, is grossly under utilised. There is, therefore, imperative need to immediately sustain the industries which are facing sickness on account of power shortage. Either National Electric grid or regional planning for the southern States to face the crisis of power shortage, must immediately be devised. Credit on soft terms must be provided for installing generators by these industries. The immediate steps to get over the power crisis on long term and short term basis must be initiated by the Union Government.

(vii) Need to take over all the textile mills in the country

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): National Textile Corporation is running 121 textile mills and making huge losses. 63 textile mills have been closed in the last two years after the new textile policy came into force. In Bombay, Modern Mills, New Great Mills, Swan Mills, L.D. Velvet Mill have been closed down. About one lakh fifty thousand workers have lost their jobs. Managements are not interested in running these mills. They are diverting funds and are investing in electronics, chemical industries, etc. which are more profitable. Closure of mills is causing serious problems in cities like Bombay, Ahmedabad and Kanpur.

In this Budget for 1988-89 maximum concessions like reduction in excise and import duties on polyester filaments, cotton filaments, nylon, viscose, etc. have been given to mill owners. But this will not stop the closure of mills. Government has sanctioned loan of Rs. 750 crores in the Seventh Plan at concessional rates of interest out of which Rs. 122 crores have been taken by mill owners. Still many mills have been closed either because of dispute between owners or mismanagement and lack of interest on the part of owners.

NTC is looking after 25 per cent of mills and Government is giving lot of concessions. Remaining 50% textile mills can earn good profits, if budgetary concessions of about Rs. 500 crores can be used for these mills. Cotton yarn, cotton cloth and garments are having very good export market. It is time for Government to take over all the textile mills in the country and run them with competent, honest high rank officers and workers' elected representatives.

[Translation]

(viii) Need to take steps for the development of Mathura and Vrindavan

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura):