

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Order, please.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Yesterday we demanded a statement regarding the lathi charge on women demonstrators. Bhagat-ji gave an assurance that a statement would be made. What happened to that?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I have communicated this to the Home Minister. Later, today, at 2 O' Clock he will make a statement.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I brought your observations to the notice of the Home Minister. He will give you information about the same today.

**12.14 hrs.**

STATEMENT RE. PROCUREMENT PRICES OF PADDY AND KHARIF COARSE CEREALS FOR 1987-88 SEASON

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR G.S. DHILLON) : Sir, The Government have fixed the procurement prices for paddy and kharif coarse cereals for the 1987-88 marketing season. The procurement price of all varieties of paddy in common group of fair average quality has been raised from Rs 146 per quintal during the 1986-87 marketing season to Rs. 150 per quintal for the 1987-88 marketing season.

For fine variety of paddy, the price will be Rs. 154 per quintal and for super fine variety of paddy Rs. 158 per quintal during the 1987-88 marketing season.

The Government have also fixed the procurement prices for jowar, bajra, maize and ragi each of fair average quality at Rs. 135 per quintal for the 1987-88 marketing season.

**12.15 hrs.**

ELECTION LAWS (RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR THE SCHEDULED TRIBES IN CERTAIN NORTH-EASTERN STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES) AMENDMENT BILL

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : I beg to move for leave to withdraw a Bill to provide for the reservation of seats in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States of Meghalaya and Nagaland for the Scheduled Tribes in pursuance of the amendments made in articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution by the Constitution (Fifty-first Amendment) Act, 1984 and for matters connected thereto.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw a Bill to provide for the reservation of seats in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies of the States of Meghalaya and Nagaland for the Scheduled Tribes in pursuance of the amendments made in articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution by the Constitution (Fifty-first Amendment) Act, 1984 and for matters connected thereto."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ : I withdraw the Bill

**12.16 hrs.**

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

*[English]*

(i) **Steps to promote girls' education in Navodaya Schools.**

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : The Government of India have laid

great emphasis on the promotion of women's education in the New Education Policy. As a part of the programme to promote education among the boys and girls, Navodaya Schools are being set up in different States and one Navodaya School is proposed to be set up in every district. Students are taking keen interest in getting education in such schools. But it is observed that the girl students are proportionately less than the boy students in such schools. There are many factors responsible for the low rate of enrolment of girl students in Navodaya Schools. Firstly, the seats are not reserved for girl students. Secondly all the Navodaya Schools do not have hostel facility for girl students. In the absence of hostel facility they do not want to take admission in Navodaya Schools. This is the situation throughout the country. So, the girl students will be deprived of getting education in Navodaya Schools if the present situation continues. As such, I urge upon the Govt to take the following steps in order to promote girls education in Navodaya Schools:-

- (1) Every Navodaya School should reserve 50% of total seats for girl students
- (2) Girl's hostel should be constructed in each Navodaya School
- (3) Staff quarters or hostel accommodation should be provided to the lady teachers employed in Navodaya Schools

[Translation]

**(ii) Demand for abolishing cess on hand-made blankets**

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN (Kairana) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I give the following notice under Rule 377.

I want to draw the attention of the Government to the plight of poor blanket weavers of Gangeru town in my constituency. These poor weavers get raw wool from nearby State. Their families convert it into threads and weave it into rough blankets which are very cheap and mostly purchased by the poor. It is sad that thousands of rupees are collected from them by way of tax on the border for that raw wool. I think there is no such tax on raw cotton.

Therefore, I urge the Government that the cess being charged from the poor weavers should be abolished so that they can make their both ends meet.

**(iii) Demand for Central Government's directive to all State Governments to discontinue 'Zero Budget' system.**

SHRI S.S. BHOYE (Melegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377.

The Central Government has directed all the State Governments to follow 'Zero Budget' system so that cut in Government expenditure could be effected and more development of States could be ensured. Many States particularly the Maharashtra Government, have taken a lead in the matter and it has banned all new recruitment in Government offices. Besides, orders have been issued to retrench the employees who have been working for the last 3-4 years. The Agriculture Ministry has closed down many departments like Soil Conservation Department which has rendered thousands of employees jobless. Services of many PWD engineers have been terminated.

If this continues an army of educated unemployed will be created and it will become a constant headache for the Government. I therefore, urge the Government to instruct the State to discontinue 'Zero Budget' system and also to reinstate the retrenched employees. Besides, the new recruitment should also continue.