

[Sh. Hafiz Mohd. Siddiq]
handloom weavers in India used to manufacture woollen parda extralock cloth for army jawans of the country. Under the new policy of the Textile Ministry, mill-owners have procured modern machines from Germany to be used in India. For the last 25-30 years this cloth continued to be manufactured in the handloom sector providing employment to lakhs of weavers. Now the Defence Ministry is procuring this cloth from the mills. The mills produce this cloth on modern machines. As a result lakhs of weavers have been rendered jobless.

I request the Central Government to issue a directive to the Ministry of Defence to the effect that it should resort to its original practice of procuring this cloth from the handloom sector. This will provide employment to the poor weavers.

[English]

(vi) Demand for a Low-power T. V. Transmission Centre at Pathanamthitta in Kerala during the current year

SHRI P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): Sir, setting up of a low power transmission centre at Pathanamthitta in Kerala has been a long standing demand.

Pathanamthitta is the only district in Kerala which does not have TV transmission facilities. This district has the highest percentage of literacy and has a very large number of schools, colleges and technical institutions. Economically too, it is an advanced district. The people who bought TV sets as far back as in 1980 are still waiting to get transmission facility. This has created a sense of frustration in them.

Now that the Planning Commission has approved the proposal, I would request the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to take immediate steps to set up the transmis-

sion centre at Pathanamthitta during this year itself.

[Translation]

(vii) Demand for relief measures for saving villages which have been affected by last year's flood

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to submit the following under rule 377. "India is predominantly an agricultural country, where 80 per cent of the people depend on agriculture. They fall victim to floods and drought every year. As a result of which the condition of agriculturists has been deteriorating day by day. Consequently, the studies of their children have suffered a setback, who are the future builders of our country. Jahanabad parliamentary constituency in Bihar, has suffered a heavy loss due to floods and the best land of the hundreds of villages turned into rivers or deserts. As regards the grant of relief to the victims of floods, the State Government says that it has no funds for the purpose. Therefore, I request the Central Government to take advance measures to settle 10,000 people of this area elsewhere because it is but definite that if no safety measures are taken in respect of these villages within next two months, these villages will be swept away during the coming rainy season. Moreover, it is the duty of the Government to protect the people from natural calamities.

(viii) Demand for a Committee to inquire into the grievances of the staff of BHEL units in regard to promotion avenues, norms for transfers etc.

[English]

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central):