

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

Then we can meet our coal requirements indigenously. We need not go for imports.

My next suggestion is that a coal company may be located in Orissa so that proper attention can be paid to the development of coal industry in Orissa. Immediately we can have a separate Coal Division to start with in Orissa.

With these words, Madam, I support this Bill.

This Bill, though innocuous, is significant, having far reaching implications and far-reaching consequences to our national economy. I congratulate the Minister for having given opportunity to the Members of the House to discuss this in wider perspective and to give suggestions for the better working of the coal industry.

With these words I conclude. Thank you.

STATEMENT RE : SPECIAL REBATE
ON THE SALE OF HANDLOOM
CLOTH

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILE (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : Government of India have a scheme to provide special rebate at the rate of 20 per cent, to be shared equally between the Central and State Governments, in order to help the handloom cooperatives and corporations to liquidate their accumulated stocks.

2. The duration of special rebate was increased from 30 days to 60 days a year during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85. Prior to 1983-84, special rebate was allowed for 30 days in a year and rebate was also allowed for sales at National Handloom Expos organised by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms. While increasing the rebate to 60 days, the special rebate meant exclusively for National Handloom Expos was withdrawn.

3. However, for 1985-86, the old system of 30 days special rebate plus rebate for National Handloom Expos was re-introduced. However, a number of representations have

been received from some State Governments seeking a reversion to the earlier policy of 1984-85 of 60 days special rebate.

4. Upon reconsideration of the matter the Government have decided that during 1985-86 the period of special rebate will be increased to 45 days as against 30 days announced earlier. Rebate facilities will also be available for the Handloom Expos organised or approved by Government. This decision provides more benefit than the earlier policy of total 60 days rebate, which was inclusive of expos also. Thus under the present decision special rebate facility will be available for 45 days for all sales and in addition about 128 days of sales in expos.

5. This decision of the Government will greatly help the handloom sector to increase the sale of handloom cloth and to liquidate the accumulated stocks during the ensuing season.

14.06 hrs.

COAL MINES (CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT) AMENDMENT
BILL—Contd.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : Madam, this Amendment Bill suggests that the power to recover the cost of operations or measures undertaken by the Government for the benefit of coal mine-owner should flow from this Act itself, not from the rules and hence this amendment has been brought forward. We welcome this amendment because it is very much in tune with the nationalisation of coal-mines which was done in 1973.

Madam, conservation and development of coal mines is very important for the nations. Coal being the main source of energy has the highest forward linkage effect with steel, cement, fertiliser, railway, electric power and a number of industries. That is why the Act of 1974 was enacted and this Amendment Bill gives some powers to the Government to realise the duties and taxes from the owner, agent or manager, for