

widows of the deceased belonging to the Scheduled Tribes are not getting any rights in the property of their husbands. All rights are available to the sons. Thus the widows of the Scheduled Tribes are being discriminated against.

Therefore, as per intentions of sub-section (2) of section 2 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 an official notification should be issued immediately to the effect that the said Act would be applicable to persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes of Rajasthan and other State so as to end the discrimination.

- (ii) Construction of bridges over Gomti and Reth rivers in Barabanki district of U.P.

**SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT** (Barabanki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to lack of bridges on the rivers in my district Barabanki (U.P.), it has remained a very backward area. There are no bridges on Banki—Barethi road and on Shariabad Ghat on Reth river, on Babaganj Ghunghter road to Khijna road and Deviganj-Mawai road on Kalyani river and on Deviganj-Subeha road on Rari river. Similarly, the people have to face difficulties in the absence of a bridge on Ibrahimabad Ghat on Gomati river. The backwardness of Barabanki district will be removed and the people will be greatly relieved if bridges are constructed at these places. It is hoped that orders would be issued very soon for construction of these bridges so that the means of transport are made available to the people of the area and their economic and social condition improved.

[English]

- (iii) Need to nationalise thirteen sick textile mills in Bombay and also to extend liberal concessions to three other mills taken over by the Government.

**SHRI SHARAD DIGHE** (Bombay North Central): The Government of India had taken over thirteen sick Textile Mills in Bombay by a special enactment in 1983. These mills have not resumed normal working so far. The employment of workers is around 19,000 as against the

pre-strike attendance of 37,000. The pace of restoration of normalcy in these Mills is slow.

I urge upon the Government of India to nationalise all these Mills and restore them to normal working with full complements of labour. This may be done without closing down any of the Mills on the ground that they are not viable.

Apart from these Mills, there are three Mills which are closed, namely; Shreenivas, Bradbury and Mukesh Mills in Bombay. Three Mills, viz., Phoenix, Kamla and Modern Mills in Bombay are passing through critical situation.

I urge upon the Government of India to extend liberal concessions to these sick mills with a view to review them and to minimise displacement of labour.

- (iv) Steps needed for the betterment of betel leaf growers

**SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN** (Cooch Behar): The growers of betel-leaves receive far below the minimum cost price of their produce. Last Year, they received Rs. 300/-or more for 10,000 betel leaves. But nowadays, they are selling at Rs. 50 to Rs. 70 which is even far below their cost price. It is estimated that about forty thousand hectares of land is under betel leaf cultivation and about 15 lakh cultivators are engaged in this profession throughout the year. At the rate of Rs. 250/-per 10,000 leaves, India produces betel leaves worth about Rs. 700 crores every year. But, the growers of these leaves are suffering a lot on account of numerous problems. The small and marginal farmers who are the growers of betel leaves are not getting proper marketing arrangement, Railway transportation facility and necessary financial assistance in the form of Bank Loans. So far, no minimum support price has been announced for betel leaves and the growers are practically and absolutely under the clutches of the middlemen and the big traders. In view of this, I suggest to the Agriculture Minister to take the following steps for the betterment of the betel leaf growers as early as possible ;—

- (a) The Government should replace the traditional age-old pattern of cultivation of betel leaves by a more scientific method.
- (b) Remunerative price should be announced by the Government so as to give an incentive to the betel leaf growers.
- (c) NAFED should purchase the full quantity of betel leaves from the growers at remunerative prices so as to spare them from the clutches of the middlemen and the big traders.
- (d) The Export Promotion Council should include betel leaves in the list of items for export, particularly to the Gulf countries.
- (e) The betel leaves should be charged the Railway Freight at fifty per cent concessional rates and be booked in the Super Fast Trains under the head 'Perishable Goods'
- (f) The betel leaf cultivation should be included in the Crop Insurance Scheme ; and
- (g) The betel leaf cultivation should be taken up in the D.R.D.A. Scheme and Bank Loans should be given to the betel leaf growers on liberal terms.

[Translation]

- (v) Financial Assistance to Himachal Pradesh for Constructing its Capital and transfer of land and buildings to the State Government.

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Simla) :  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to raise the following matter:

Himachal Pradesh got the status of a fulfilled State long back and the Central Government has been providing considerable assistance for the development of this State. Today, this State has its own medical college, university, High Court

and all sorts of administrative facilities. In 1966, hill areas of Punjab—Kangra, Kulu, Simla districts etc.—were merged in this State because the customs and traditions of the people of these areas were almost the same as those of the people of this State. At that time the people of these districts felt happy as it was a brotherly reconciliation. Simla became the capital of the State, but most of the buildings, houses and land there belong to the Government of India due to which the State Government experience difficulty in running its offices. I, therefore, request the Central Government to provide assistance for building the capital as has been done in the case of other States and transfer the buildings, houses and land to the State Government so that it may not have any difficulty. I hope that Government will fulfil this demand of the State Government and remove its difficulties.

13.00 hrs.

- (iv) Need to check deforestation in several districts of Madhya Pradesh to preserve environment.

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla) :  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in many districts of Madhya Pradesh forests have been denuded and fresh afforestation is being undertaken by the Social Forestry Branch of the Forest Department. It is an improper step from the point of view of preventing pollution of the environment. Besides, there is great resentment among the local residents due to this new scheme. They are resorting to 'Chipko' movement because it is destroying their pasture land.

Therefore, the Central Government should intervene in the matter and issue orders to the State Government to stop cutting of forests forthwith. Besides, a suggestion may be given to them that afforestation should be undertaken in hills where there are no trees because there are a number of such hills in the State. When the work of afforestation in those hills and other places having no trees is completed, only then the work of afforestation in denuded forests should be taken up. It is absolutely necessary in public interest as well as from the point of view of environment.