

[Shri Sudhir Roy]

Starred Question No. 260 on 20-11-1986 is unfortunate, as the teachers' associations should be consulted at the time of the pay revision. The sooner it is done, the better it would be.

(viii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Maharashtra to run the Cotton Monopoly procurement Scheme.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon) : The Government of Maharashtra is running Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme, which was cleared by the Union Government. They need financial assistance, as farmers are demanding rise in cotton prices and also hundred per cent payment of their produce at one time instead of payment in instalments.

Last year, the cotton prices were higher in Maharashtra than the Central Government's Support price. The Government put a condition that under the Maharashtra Cotton Procurement Scheme, cotton should be purchased at the support price declared by the Central Government and no extra price should be paid to the cotton growers. Somehow in the interest of farmers the Government of Maharashtra is running the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme for the protection of the farmers—a condition laid down by the Central Government.

Financial assistance is badly needed by the Government of Maharashtra from the Union Government or the Reserve Bank of India. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government that a sum of Rs. 200 crores to Rs. 300 crores be given to the Government of Maharashtra by way of assistance immediately for payment to cotton growers. This would give substantial relief to the farmers. Otherwise, the unrest which is brewing in the State at present may become a law and order problem. I would, therefore, urge the Government that in the interest of public the Government may give a serious consideration for the solution of the problem.

13.57 hrs.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE REVENUES
APPELLATE TRIBUNAL
BILL, 1986

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now take up Item No. 11.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to
move* :

“That the Bill to provide for the adjudication, by an appellate tribunal, of disputes with respect to the determination of the rates of duties of customs and Central excise on goods and to the valuation of goods for the purposes of assessment of such duties, in pursuance of Article 3238 of the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.

As hon. Members are aware, Customs and Central Excise duties contribute about 80 per cent of the total tax revenues of the Central Government. Both these duties have, thus, a vital role in augmenting the financial resources of the Centre. However, in recent years there has been an enormous increase in litigation relating to disputes with respect to the valuation of goods and/or the determination of the rate of customs and central excise duties for the purpose of assessment of such duties. As a result, the collection of very large amounts of revenue has been blocked.

In order to mitigate the serious problem of litigation and to bring about uniformity of assessment all over the country, it is proposed to set up a tribunal under Article 3238 of the Constitution to deal with appeals arising from disputes relating to valuation of goods and the determination of the rate of duty in the assessment of customs and central excise duties. With the establishment of this Tribunal,

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.