

plight also needs attention. It has to be mentioned specially here that the Handloom Corporation does not pay the price of the products purchased from the poor weavers for months together on the plea that the Corporation has not received subsidy from the Central Government and the Corporation has also totally failed to supply the yarn of that category according to the requirements of the weavers. These weavers have been using old techniques in producing cloth as a result of which they are unable to compete in the world market in this modern, progressive age of competition. Under such circumstances it is necessary to open a training centre to save the livelihood of lakhs of weavers as also to modernise the handloom sector.

I would, therefore, like to urge the hon. Minister to ensure timely payment of the price of the products purchased from these weavers. Also a training centre should be opened immediately in order to train the weavers in Khalilabad and impart them latest know-how in the field.

[English]

- (iv) Need to take steps for purchase of Cotton by Cotton Corporation of India and release the export quota of Cotton to enable the growers to set remunerative price

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh are very much agitated because cotton prices have gone down very much compared to the last season. Cotton Corporation of India has not been purchasing cotton as a result of which middle men are exploiting the growers. The same situation is prevailing in Punjab too. Hence the Government of India should ask CCI to start purchasing operations. Government should also release the export quota of cotton to all the cotton growing States to enable the grower to get better price. The Government should give up import of short staple cotton.

- (v) Pitiable condition of labourers in different parts of the country and need to take necessary remedial measures to save the labourers intending to go abroad from cheating and fraud

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Thousands of Labourers from different parts of India, mostly from Orissa, taken by Contractors to work in U.P. at Uttarkasi and other places are subjected to inhuman atrocities and torture. This has come to light by the observation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court basing on the Report of a District Judge. The labourers are not even given the minimum wages and kept in a very unhygienic conditions. Even the women labourers are made work under health hazardous conditions. Exploitation and ill-treatment to the labourers are agitating the minds of general public since long.

The labourers sent abroad are much exploited and tortured. The labourers are recruited through unauthorised agents making them stranded at Delhi for months together and heavy amounts are extracted from them, having allured to send them abroad. To solve the problem, the Government should have a Corporation at the Central as well as at the State levels. The State-owned Manpower Corporations may be established and activated to curb the malpractices of cheating and fraud. The Labour Advisory Committees at the Central as well as State levels be formed involving peoples' representatives for the benefit of the labourers. The Central Department of Labour is to be congratulated for having taken some steps, but required to take immediate stringent steps for the implementation and if necessary, acts may be enacted.

- (vi) Demand for a separate region for meteorological offices in Orissa and for bifurcating the administrative channel from Regional Centre, Calcutta

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : India Meteorological Department under the Ministry of Science and Technology is now divided into five