

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) Pitiabie 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

[Shri Chintamani Panigrahi]

administrative zones, namely, New Delhi, Madras, Nagpur, Bombay and Calcutta. And each zone has been placed under the direct administration of Regional Director.

All the States of Eastern and North Eastern regions including Andaman and Nicobar Islands are placed under Calcutta region.

State capitals of Bihar, Orissa and Assam are declared as Meteorological Centres whose administrators are nearly equal to the Directors placed at different regions.

Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, which is being under the control of one Director who is being entrusted to look only into the technical difficulties of the Meteorological Centre of the State, who has not been given even the minimum administrative powers to run the technical works of the Observatories in the different corners of Orissa.

T.A./D.A. and medical claims are being drawn at Calcutta. Such claims are lying in arrears for several months.

The staff of the entire Eastern Region excepting Calcutta are suffering a lot because of the transfer policy decided on the basis of popular/less popular and no popular regions.

Opening of Meteorological Observatories at Keonjhar and Chandabalis in Orissa have been delayed for seven years although in a particular State such Observatories are being opened in quick succession.

Keeping all these difficulties in view, I urge upon the Minister for Science and Technology to take necessary steps to make a separate region for the Meteorological Offices in Orissa and to bifurcate the administrative channel from Regional Centre, Calcutta.

(vii) Need to provide more funds for improvement of slums in Nagpur in Maharashtra

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the

problem of slums in the country is very alarming. Government is trying its level best to provide adequate assistance to the slum dwellers in the country. The funds allocated to Maharashtra State for the improvement of slums for the Seventh Five Year Plan are very meagre.

Central Government may not be aware that more than 5 lakh people live in slums alone at Nagpur in Maharashtra State. Government of Maharashtra used to provide more than Rs. 1 crore annually for the improvement of miserable condition of slum dwellers. But it is very unfortunate to say that this time it has been drastically reduced to almost 50% which is quite inadequate.

There is tremendous need for more assistance. Central Government should either direct the Maharashtra Government to provide Rs. 2 crores immediately for the slum dwellers or Central Government should provide the proposed assistance to Nagpur.

(viii) Need for imposing immediate ban on the advertisement of Cigarettes in newspapers etc.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the World Health Organisation has expressed serious concern at the growing addiction to cigarette smoking. The World Health Organisation has warned of the dangers of the Lung Cancer caused by the smoking habit.

Advertisement of cigarettes in newspapers and periodicals and in wall posters and hoardings have been very effective in spreading the habit of smoking cigarettes.

There is already a ban on advertisement of liquor and other intoxicants in newspapers and periodicals. It is very necessary that there should be a similar ban on advertisement of cigarettes in newspapers, periodicals, wall posters, advertisement hoarding, calendars etc.

It is necessary that immediate action should be taken to ban advertisement of cigarettes in any form.