

- (2) Maximum assistance should be given to small farmers to increase production. Irrigation, fertilizer, improved seeds, modern techniques of cultivation, pesticides, etc. should be made available to them at cheap rates. Interest free loans should be given and they should be given reasonable prices of their agricultural produce.
- (3) The Integrated Rural Development Programme should be implemented on a wider scale and its implementation should be properly monitored so that the actual beneficiaries get the benefits.
- (4) More and more medium scale industries, village and cottage industries should be set up in the rural areas. The traditional village and cottage industries should be modernised and encouraged.
- (5) Priority should be given for the development and industrialisation of the backward areas, backward districts, backward sub-divisions, backward development-blocks and villages.
- (6) Under the National Rural Employment Scheme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Scheme and some other similar schemes, priority should be given to drinking water, school buildings, link roads, electrification, health facilities, etc., in the rural areas.
- (7) Maximum assistance should be given to the people in the rural areas during natural calamities.

(iii) Demand for continuing scholarship to SC/ST students studying in higher classes and raising the rate thereof

SHRI R. P. SUMAN (Akbarpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I would like to raise the following matter :

Under the Constitution, the State must make arrangement for free education and scholarship to the students belonging to the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes

throughout the country. On this basis, the students belonging to the above referred communities have been getting scholarships for pursuing post-matric studies. Keeping in view the present circumstances, it is necessary to increase the amount of scholarship because the books have become very costly. It is, therefore, necessary to enhance the present rates of scholarship for the students pursuing post-matric studies. Besides, it is also necessary to provide scholarship to all the students studying in the under-matric classes.

During the current year, the scholarship of those scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students in Uttar Pradesh has been stopped who are pursuing higher studies after the completion of their vocational education and full fee is being charged from them. It has caused great resentment among the above-mentioned communities. The students who want to pursue higher education would thus be deprived of this benefit. Therefore, I make a strong appeal to the Central Government to restore the scholarship facility to all those students belonging to the aforesaid communities who are studying in post-matric classes. The rates of the scholarship should also be enhanced so that they may acquire higher education and educational development of the people of the aforesaid communities may take place more speedily.

12.10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

(iv) Steps to protect sick industries in Bihar

SHRI C. P. THAKUR (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bihar at present has the lowest *per capita* income. Therefore, it can be considered a poor State on all counts. In this background, most of the large scale and small scale industries are lying sick.

Rohtas industry is lying sick since long and causing starvation of so many persons. Phulwari Cotton Mills is also lying sick and there are many more sick industries. Is the Government Planning to rescue these sick industries ?