

I would request all the members of the House to join with me in condemning the attack on the life of the Prime Minister and I also urge that stern steps should be taken so as not to allow any such attempt to be repeated.

[*Translation*]

(iii) **Demand for increase in transport subsidy in the hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to existing geographical difficulties and lack of rail transport facilities etc. in the hill areas of the country the Central Government provides 75 per cent transport subsidy for transportation of commodities to and from the industries situated in these areas to remove hindrances coming in the way of industrialisation. This policy has remained uniformly applicable to those hill areas of the country which have been recognised as 'hill areas' by the Planning Commission.

Considering the present transport subsidy as inadequate for giving impetus to industrialisation in these areas. I have been repeatedly demanding that the quantum of the transport subsidy for the industries situated one thousand meters above sea level should be increased from 75 per cent to 90 per cent.

I was surprised to see that whereas this subsidy has been increased to 90 per cent for the other hill areas, hill areas of Uttar Pradesh, specially Almora, Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Pauri, Uttar Kashi and Tehri have been deprived of this benefit.

I, therefore, urge the Minister of Industries that the transport subsidy should be increased from 75 per cent to 90 per cent in the case of these hill districts of Uttar Pradesh also.

(iv) **Necessary steps needed to check the spread of 'Silicosis' disease particularly in Mandsaur district of M.P.**

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, having been

affected by a fatal disease, 'silicosis', thousands of labourers engaged in cutting stones from the slates in the stone factories in the hill areas, have died and in the absence of any treatment, thousands more are in the grip of this disease.

In Mandsaur alone in Madhya Pradesh the number of such labourers is 8,500. The State Governments have become almost desperate in this issue. Without special and adequate assistance from the Central Government, it is impossible to get rid of this horrible disease. This disease has started spreading in this surrounding areas of these factories also. The Central Government should launch a country-wide movement to eradicate silicosis.

(v) **Demand to protect the carpet industry in the country**

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in addition to Mirzapur, Bhadohi and their surrounding areas, the hand-made carpets are produced in Kashmir, Hyderabad, Shahjahnpur etc. However, 75 per cent of its production and export is confined to Mirzapur, Bhadohi and the surrounding areas. About 12 lakh people from my constituency and the nearby areas like Jaunpur, Allahabad, Rewa etc. get employment in this industry. Presently the industry is passing through a phase of crisis. The main raw material for the carpet industry is the sheep wool. The sheep wool and wool fibre have become costly. The reason for this is that live sheep and mutton are being exported and the wool produced in country is being smuggled out. The incentive money on the type of carpet being produced in larger quantity and being exported has been reduced and the rate of interest on the bank loans as compared to other countries is higher. It is requested that following steps should be taken by the Government to protect the carpet industry :

1. The export of live sheep and mutton should be banned and large scale incentives should be provided for sheep-rearing and wool production in hilly areas and forest districts.
2. The Carpet Association should be permitted to import wool under