

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

[Shri Umakant Mishra]

O.G.L., without any duty and tax, and the Government of India should make available wool on cheap rates by importing it.

3. Smuggling of wool and wool fibre should be strictly checked.
4. The incentive money on medium quality carpet production and export should immediately be increased.
5. The rate of interest on loans taken from banks for carpet production and export should be reduced.
6. The Child Labour Law should not be made applicable to the trainees in the carpet industry.

[English]

(vi) **Need to take steps to check the entry of infiltrators into India from Pakistan border**

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Bellary) : Pakistan's latest activities pose a great danger to our country. They are supporting the extremists with arms and ammunitions and are being provided training in Pakistan. Sir, they have also started sending Pakistani intruders into Punjab; Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir in order to create disorder in our country. Pakistan has also started raising of Kashmir once again on the International forums. This shows that Pakistan is fully preparing for a war against India. They are getting arms from USA and have entered an agreement with China regarding nuclear development. This is a matter of great concern to us. The Indian Government should take steps to check the infiltrators from Pakistan and to stop any help being given by that country to the extremists. It is, therefore, necessary to come forward with some concrete solutions to solve these problems.

(vii) **Need to make available financial assistance to tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh whose crops have been damaged due to floods in Godavari, Wyara and Errakalva rivers**

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : More than three

thousand tobacco barns were damaged due to unprecedented floods to Godavari, Wyara, Errakalva rivers in Khammam, East and West Godavari, Warangal and Krishna districts. In addition, the farmers lost standing crops. Their lands were sand cast. So as to help them in reconstructing/repairing their fully/partly damaged barns and to ensure that it will not adversely affect the normal curing and production of tobacco the Tobacco Board recommended to the Government of India to make available financial assistance with subsidy element. As the tobacco plantations have already commenced, the Government should come forward as requested by the Tobacco Board to the rescue of farmers whose barns were damaged. The Government made available assistance to the damaged barns during 1977 November cyclone. Tobacco and its products are highest revenue earning items for the Union Government exchequer. But only a very meagre amount is being spent on development and extension of VFC Tobacco. The Government should come forward to provide JTS jackets to save coal and curing time as well as desuckercides with subsidy element in the larger national interest so as to reduce unit cost of production to enable Indian Tobacco to compete more effectively in the world markets.

(viii) **Need to adopt necessary measures to meet the power requirements of Karnataka**

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : Sir, Karnataka has been facing glaring power shortage for the past six years. As against per capita consumption of power, i.e., the all India target of 282 units at the end of the Seventh Plan, Karnataka is not likely to cross 210 units. It is very necessary to take up immediately some short-term options to provide interim relief to power consumers such as 120 MW gas turbine/diesel plant in Bangalore at the initiative taken by the industry and the decentralised 30 MW diesel installations at four places in the State. Adequate funds should be provided for the programme to reduce transmission and distribution losses and to save energy. Further, Sharavathy tail race project, Shivasamudram Seasonal Power Station, seasonal power projects in Western Ghats and bedthi projects should be financed by the Centre on priority basis,