

[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,

Action should be taken to have Super Thermal Power Stations with 500 MW units.

17.21 hrs.

**ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 1986**

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : On behalf of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, I beg to move :

“That the Bill further to amend the Estate Duty Act, 1953, be taken into consideration.”

Hon. Members may recall that the Estate Duty Act was amended last year so as to discontinue the levy of estate duty in respect of property other than agricultural lands with effect from 16th March, 1985. As a result of the amendment made in the Estate Duty Act in 1984 and the Resolutions passed by various State Legislatures under article 252 of the Constitution, the Estate Duty Act has ceased to apply to the agricultural lands situated in all the Union Territories and all the States except the States of Nagaland, Punjab and Tripura.

The State Legislatures of Punjab and Tripura have passed Resolutions under article 252 of the Constitution to the effect that the Estate Duty Act may be amended by Parliament so as to discontinue the levy of estate duty in respect of agricultural lands which are situated in these States and which pass on deaths occurring on or after 16th March, 1985. This Bill seeks to make an amendment in the Estate Duty Act pursuant to the Resolutions passed by the Legislatures of these two States. The effect of this Bill being enacted into law will be that the Estate Duty Act will cease to apply to the agricultural lands which are situated in the States of Punjab and Tripura and which pass on the deaths occurring on or after 16th March, 1985.

This is a very short and simple Bill which seeks to abolish the estate duty on agricultural lands in the States of Punjab and Tripura. Therefore, I am sure that the Bill will receive the unanimous support of the House.

With these words, I move.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Bill further to amend the Estate Duty Act, 1953, be taken into consideration”.

Shri B.B. Ramaiah.

SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru) : Sir, this is a Bill which seeks to amend the Estate Duty Act, 1953. Already we have so many taxes like the income-tax, the wealth tax, the capital gains tax and so many other taxes. The estate duty should have been abolished long back. Anyway, now it is being taken up in respect of Punjab and Tripura. The other States have already agreed for the abolition of this tax on agricultural land. I always feel that any tax on agriculture is very dangerous and the farmers and innocent people are put into a lot of inconvenience. The Punjab and Tripura have recently done this.

I know that earlier the country tobacco tax was used to be put on the farmers. It was one of the greatest harassments to the farmers. Once it was abolished, the Government did not lose much; but I should say, the tax collectors and the indirect people have lost heavily, whereas farmers got great relief. The land tax also is a harassment to the farmers and the innocent people who do not know how to prepare the accounts. They are put to a lot of inconvenience and the people try to mis-use these provisions.

Now I would strongly support not only this, but any other aspect which gives relief to the farmers. After the agricultural land ceilings have been introduced, the holdings have been reduced. Putting any tax on the small holdings is not desirable.