

[*Translation*]

- (vi) Need to ensure supply of food-grains, given as grants-in-aid under Rural Employment Scheme, to the labourers, particularly in Deoria and Ballia districts of Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Salempur) : I want to draw the attention of the Indian Government towards the supply of foodgrains to the labourers under the Rural Employment Scheme. The Government has introduced the Scheme of 'Food for Work' throughout the country with a view to make foodgrains available at cheap rates specifically to the rural poor in a liberal way. But when I toured Deoria and Ballia districts, I found that the labourers are not supplied with foodgrains because foodgrains are to be supplied to them at Cheap rates as stipulated by the Government whereas the rates of foodgrains prevailing in the market at present are high.

As per instructions of the Government, the rural development work should be carried on by daily wage workers on muster-roll. But the work is in reality carried out through contractors. It is due to this reason that the contractors pay in cash only and sell the entire foodgrains in the market. The foodgrains which should be given to the workers at subsidised rates are not given to them and instead they go to the coffers of the officials.

I request the Government that the least in my district of Deoria and Ballia this matter should be inquired into and in future arrangements should be made to ensure that the foodgrains meant for labourers reach them.

[*English*]

- (vii) Need to extend the rebate facility to handloom industry.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : Sir, the handloom clothes are being used by most of the people in this country from ancient times. This industry should be taken care of like a handicapped child in view of its present

state of affairs. The handloom clothes were exported to the Far East and Western countries as our handloom clothes were famous and had unique beauty and quality. They had earned a good name all over the world and a lot of foreign exchange too. There was a threat that even the very existence of this industry would perish. As such, our great leaders like Hon. Shri Rajaji and Perarignar Anna came forward and put forth the facts before the then Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and urged the need for helping the poor weavers who were engaged in handloom industry. He had also readily agreed to help this industry. Recently, the hon. Union Minister for Textiles has announced that from this year, the rebate so far extended to the handloom clothes will not be given. On hearing this announcement, the handloom weavers' industry is very much shocked and worried. For the past 30 years, the handloom industry was given all sorts of help and encouragement. Commissions were given to uplift this sick industry. In this sick industry has to be kept alive, the only tonic that can be given to it, is extending the facility of 'rebate'. It is suggested that the rebate may kindly be permitted to be allowed to a maximum of 3 days, if not 7 days, on different occasions. Further, the rebate period which is more important, may be restored to 60 days.

- (viii) Need to conduct survey to examine the feasibility of setting up tobacco industry in public sector in Aligarh Tehsil in District Etah of Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) : Etah, Farrukhabad and Mainpuri districts in Uttar Pradesh are famous for producing Kampla Garhia tobacco, one of the finest varieties of tobacco and is a cash crop. This varieties of tobacco is in great demand throughout the country. But because of lack of incentives and exploitation of the tobacco growers by middle men and Commission agents, there is no substantial growth in the cultivation and production of tobacco. Consequently, the economic condition of