

long gestation period unlike tea, coffee and rubber and has the additional advantage of two to three crops a year in the rainfed area. Long Ramie fibres are very strong and at the same time the product has the fineness of silk and firmness of plastic fibres through it is a vegetable fibre. It has lustre and tensibility and can take brilliant dyes without the risk of fading in strong sunlight.

Uses of Ramie fibre are manifold — from fine clothes and strong threads for fishing nets to parachute cords to belts, hose-pipes, cigarette paper and even paper for currency notes.

Unfortunately, such a potential national wealth has neither been appreciated nor taken care of by the Central and the State Governments. There is an experimental Research Station at Sorbhog in my constituency under the Jute Agricultural Research Institute, Barrackpore, West Bengal, for which adequate funds for real research and expansion are not being provided.

A special committee of experts should immediately go into the question of popularising this remunerative crop from which Governments can earn as well.

[Translation]

(viii) Demand for a Navodaya Vidyalaya in Bhargain town in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, district Etah in Uttar Pradesh is one of the backward districts and one of the reason for its backwardness is the absence of good educational institutions in the district. Unemployment has been on a rise there, consequently, the youths are getting inclined to crimes and incidents of dacoity murder etc. are very frequent there. There are no industries there where the youths may get some job.

In my Parliamentary Constituency, there is a town Bhargain, situated in *tehsil*

Patiyali, having a population of 25 thousand. It is a town area and the largest number of the people belonging to minority communities in the districts live here. There is a railway line and railway station at a distance of about one kilometer from this town. There is also a hospital, overhead water tank and electric supply in the town. This town is also connected with District Headquarters through road. But it is a regretting that there is only one school which provides education up to 8th class. There is no school for higher study even at a distance of 5 kms from this town.

The Government is opening Navodaya Vidhyalayas in every district. 30 acres of land which is required for opening such a school has been reserved by the town area near the town and until the school building is complete, the children can study in the existing building. My submission to the Central Government and especially to the Minister of Education is that Navodaya Vidyalayas should be opened in this town keeping the 15 point programme and the number of the people of minority communities here in view. I hope that the Government will consider this matter.

[English]

(ix) Demand for classifying Ramanathapuram town in Tamil Nadu as 'C' class city.

SHRI P.KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichetti-palayam): In Ramanathapuram the Department of Post, the Department of Telecom, the Department of Customs and Central Excise, the Department of Railways, the Department of Field Publicity are located. At present, Ramanathapuram is an unclassified city for the purpose of grant of HRA/CCA. Ramanathapuram District was formed on 15.3.1985 with Ramanathapuram as headquarters. With the formation of district, all State Government district offices as well as private enterprises have shifted from Madurai to Ramanathapuram resulting in increased cost of living and scarcity of accommodation. The population in 1986 was

[Shri P. Kolandaivelu]
52,000. This itself qualifies the declaration of the city as a 'C' class city according to the conditions prescribed by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure. The Government of Tamil Nadu has upgraded the status of Ramanathapuram Municipality to the selection grade for better administration. This has resulted in increase of house tax, water tax, property tax, etc. This is also one of the factors for the higher cost of living. Ramanathapuram is a place of religious importance for Hindus and Muslims and the recent inauguration of the 'Pamban Bridge' on Sethupathi National Highway has resulted in a huge influx of pilgrims. So it is very appropriate to classify the city as Class 'C' for the purpose of grant of HRA/CCA for the Central Government employees. I request the Minister of Finance to issue necessary instructions in the matter.

14.28 hrs.

SIXTH SCHEDULE TO THE
CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI
SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India in its application to the States of Tripura and Mizoram, be taken into consideration."

The provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution have evolved a separate scheme for the administration of the Tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura through the institution of District Councils or Regional Councils. These District Councils in the Sixth Schedule area differ from State to State so far as their composition is concerned. Mizoram is a predominantly tribal area where Mizos are the pre-dominant tribe. The Sixth Schedule provisions have been provided to the minor-

ity tribes in Mizoram namely Pawis, Lakhers and Chakmas. In Tripura, the Sixth Schedule provisions are applicable to two-thirds of the State covering both tribals and the plains' men. In Assam, the District Council areas consist areas inhabited by the tribals whereas the majority are plains men. In Meghalaya, except the Shillong Cantonment area and the small portion of Shillong municipality, the whole of Meghalaya is governed by the District Council Areas consisting of Khasis, Garos and Jaintias, which are the major tribes.

Hon'ble Members might recall that Tripura was included in the Sixth Schedule in 1984 through a Constitutional amendment. Over a period of time, the minority tribals of Mizoram covered under the Sixth Schedule have come to feel that their autonomy under the Sixth Schedule will be made meaningful and they can achieve speedier progress if overall control of the State Government over them in matters like approval of the rules made by the District Councils, nomination of their members, appointment of Commission to inquire into their administration, their dissolution etc. is relaxed. In their view, the powers under the State Schedule have not always been exercised by the State Government for the betterment of of the interest of the tribal minorities. They have, therefore, represented that the Governor should exercise powers in his discretion in these matters.

In the Memorandum of Settlement on Mizoram, there is a provision that the rights and privileges of the minorities in Mizoram as envisaged in the Constitution shall continue to be preserved and protected. Similarly, in the Memorandum of Settlement of Tripura, there is a commitment to the protection of tribal interests. It is, therefore, proposed to apply the provisions of this Amendment Bill to the States of Mizoram and Tripura.

The Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1988 seeks to provide more autonomy for the District Councils in Mizoram and Tripura and also discretionary