

The increasing number of fishing boats in that area has created a problem to the port authority for accommodating them. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that a fishing harbour should be set up at Paradip.

As such, I demand in this august House that the Government of India should take an early decision on the above matter and a fishing harbour should be set up at Paradip Port of Orissa in the current financial year.

(vi) **NEED FOR SETTING UP A 50 MW THERMAL POWER STATION IN COIMBATORE.**

SHRI ERA MOHAN (Coimbatore) : There are at present 105 textile mills in Coimbatore District with an installed capacity of 25.35 lakh spindles and 4,076 looms and employing about 64,000 persons. The annual production of yarn in these mills is around 82 million kgs. valued at Rs. 213 crores. Production of cloth is around 49 million metres. valued at Rs. 40 crores. The mills in Coimbatore District are a very important source of supply of yarn to the decentralised handloom, powerloom and knitting sectors, providing employment for lakhs and lakhs of workers and a means of livelihood for families depending on them.

Besides these textile mills, in Coimbatore there are hundreds of engineering foundries and other allied subsidiary industries, for which power is needed in substantial quantum. These foundries employ several thousands of people. These textile mills and foundries are subjected to 80 per cent power cut for nearly six to seven months in a year, with the consequence of throwing thousands of people out of employ-

ment, besides loss of production all over.

It is estimated that the textile mills in Coimbatore District alone require about 1,11,500 KVA of power. Their monthly requirements in 1980 was 40 million units, against which they were supplied with 28 million units by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. The balance requirements were met partly by self-generation of 9 million units. The total cost of self-generated power works out to Rs. 1.1 crores. If a part of this amount is invested for the establishment of a thermal power station in Coimbatore, with an installed capacity of, say, 50 MW, it will be possible to reduce the impact of power-cut on mills, maintain production and employment and reduce losses on this account. It would result in reducing the pressure on the State grid and enable the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board to reduce power-cut on other large-scale, small-scale industries, agricultural sector etc.

The capital cost of a 50 MW thermal power station would be around Rs. 25 crores. When the textile mills themselves are ready to participate in the equity capital required for such a thermal power station, efforts should be made to set up this such needed thermal power station in the joint sector, with the participation of the State Government, the Central Government and, if necessary, with financial aid from international financial institutions. Since adequate water supply can be assured from Aliyar and Bhavani rivers, this station can be set up near Pollachi or Mattupalayam in Coimbatore district, from where power can be transmitted to these textile mills.

Since the livelihood of nearly a lakh of workers is involved, it is demanded that immediate steps should be taken by the Government to implement this purposeful proposition.