

[Shri M. S. K. Sathiyendran]

The Handloom Industry in Tamil Nadu owes its growth largely due to the rebate given to the bulk sales for the past thirty years. By this bulk sales the Primary Cooperative Societies were able to give continuous employment to the weavers. By closing this venue huge stocks are accumulating and this accumulation affects only the poor weavers terribly.

Most of the societies in Tamil Nadu do not have their own sales depots and they depend upon to co-optex to protect their interest. The policy of restricted rebate would certainly affect employment position in the Handloom Industry. The cooperative sector has got moral and social responsibility to maintain the tempo of employment for the Handloom weavers enrolled in co-operatives. Unless the rebate for bulk sales is allowed the competitive position of Industries in Co-operative Sector will very much be affected. The restriction on rebate would adversely affect the expansion programmes of the cooperatives also.

Tamil Nadu has the highest concentration of Handloom weavers in the country and among the districts of Tamil Nadu Ramanathapuram has the largest number of Handlooms. The weavers are experiencing number of difficulties and untold sufferings due to accumulation of stock.

Therefore, I request the Minister to kindly redress the grievances of the poor weavers by passing immediate orders on the removal of restriction on rebate. If the rebate is allowed throughout the year without any restriction the middle man can take advantage of the rebate facility and the entire benefit will reach the actual weavers.

To fulfil the objectives of providing continuous and full employment to weavers I once again request the Commerce Minister to allow rebate on Handloom cloth without any restriction and save the Handloom Industry and the poor weavers.

(iii) NEED FOR A TRAIN CONNECTING SIRPUR-KHAGAZNAGAR WITH HYDERABAD

SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY (Adilabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the most industrially developed rural area of Andhra Pradesh is from Sirpur-Khagaznagar via Bellampelly via Mancherla via Ramagundam upto Peddapelly. This is about 100 km. in length from Sirpur-Khagaznagar to Peddapelly and falls in Adilabad and Karimnagar districts of Andhra Pradesh and is on main trunk railway line of Kazeepit Balharsh a section of S. C. Railway.

This area consists of the following, existing and under construction, major industries:—(1) Sirpur Paper Mills, (2) Sir Silk Factory, (3) Singareni Collieries (one Division), (4) Three Cement Factories, (5) One Spinning Mill, (6) L.T.C. Plant (Coal Complex), (7) Thermal Plant (A.P.S.E.B.), (8) Fertiliser Plant (F.C.I.) and (9) Super Thermal Plant, and more than one hundred small scale industries. The rough estimate of total investment in all the industries in this area is about Rs. 1050 crores and the total persons directly employed in these factories is about 4 lakhs.

Now, the importance of this area can be judged. Although this area is on the main line, unfortunately, this area is not connected to Hyderabad capital of Andhra Pradesh, by a convenient train. In spite of several representations from local M.L.As., business people and industrialists, the authorities of S.C. Railways knowing fully well the importance and urgency of the requirement have not yet provided with extra train connecting this area to Hyderabad.

I request the Minister for Railways to take up this issue immediately and provide one train connection Sirpur—Khagaznagar to Hyderabad. If this is not immediately possible, then I would suggest extending the present Kakatheya Express which is now running from Warangal to Hyderabad upto Sirpur—Khagaznagar.