

[Shri V. N. Gadgil]

The Government, therefore, should immediately intervene in the matter and ensure that the recommendations of the Justice Palekar Tribunal are implemented by the management.

(ii) PROBLEMS OF HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN KERALA

*SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

The handloom sector plays a very significant role in creating employment opportunities and easing foreign exchange in the fact of very stiff competition from many areas and in different ways in the de-centralized sector. This sector have given employment to two lakhs of people in Kerala alone.

The handloom industry in Kerala is facing a crisis to-day. Apart from the rise in prices and shortage of yarn and chemicals, accumulation of unsold stock of handloom cloth has really crippled this sector.

Rs. 7 crore-worth of handloom products are lying unsold, in Kerala alone. Incentive schemes like rebate etc., cannot help in selling the huge stock that has accumulated. Even the Handloom Development Corporation does not have the financial capacity to procure the entire stock. Thus there is very acute unemployment prevailing in this sector. What is urgently needed is the setting up of a National Handloom Development Corporation which can play a very important role in different aspects of this industry, such as production, marketing, distribution of raw materials etc. At the same time, the production of controlled cloth should be entrusted to the handloom sector, and market should be explored for the sale of the handloom production. The most important factor in regard to protection of hadloom is reservation in production. That is not being done fully. The State Governments which have the responsibility to ensure that reservation is implemented, do not show enough interest.

Another urgent step that should be taken is to bring down the price of yarn and remove its shortage. Kerala has to depend on other States for yarn. Therefore, making use of the additional looms that will be sanctioned during the 6th Plan, one spinning mill should be set up in Kerala. Since there is no control over the price or distribution of yarn, there is sudden fluctuation in the prices. Therefore, as a temporary measure, at least the price of yarn should be fixed by the Government. I request the Government that necessary steps may be taken to save this industry, which is a source of livelihood for lakhs of people.

(iii) STEPS FOR IMPROVING POWER SUPPLY IN RAJASTHAN

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

The Atomic Power Project (Rawatbhatta), Kota, Rajasthan has got two units. The first was commissioned in the year 1973 and it is to generate 200 MW electricity. The second of the project has been commissioned in November, 1980, and its capacity to generate electricity is 200 MW. Unfortunately, these two units are not generating to their maximum capacity. Not only this, both the units have got a chequered career of shutting down because of frequent faults in their working. The days of the shutting down of these units outnumber the days of working. The shutting down of atomic power units has caused substantial loss to the crops of the farmers from the irrigation point of view, because of non-supply of electricity.

The Kota Atomic Power Plant, Unit 1 has to be shut down for maintenance work during this month, as reported in newspapers to-day.

Rajasthan has got a share in Gandhi Sagar Dam Hydel Project, Bhakra Nangal Hydel project and Vyas Hydel Project in Himachal Pradesh, but the State is not being given its proper

*Original speech was delivered in Malayalam.