

MR. SPEAKER : He wants some relief before Onam.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : I will look into it.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY (Amalapuram) : I received a telegram from Mr. Kasina Venkataratnam of Bandarilanka, a member of the Andhra Pradesh Handloom Weavers' Congress stating that in Andhra Pradesh, at a number of places there are relay fasts for want of livelihood to the weavers and their families of the handloom sector because most of them do not have jobs due to accumulation of huge stocks of handloom cloth and also due to rise in prices of yarn, dyes and other inputs of handloom weavers. As has been stated by the hon. Minister that there were requests from some States for financial assistance for this handloom industry and they have been taken into consideration and granted a total loan of Rs. 5 crores. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble. House to a glaring fact in this connection that here in this sector, most of the weavers belong to backward and weaker sections.

For example, in UP, most of the handloom weavers are Muslims; in Assam, most of them are tribals and in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, most of them are from weaker and backward sections of our country. So, this is the problem mainly of backward and weaker sections. Therefore, these people require special attention of the Government in allocating financial resources. Whether they make a request for assistance or not.

It is an undenyng fact that stocks of handloom cloth have been accumulated in Andhra Pradesh. Besides, as has been stated by the hon. Member, there is a lot of difficulty in purchasing the yarn, dyes, chemicals and other inputs required for the handloom industry, because their prices are rapidly increasing. There is a procedure in Government namely of 'levy sugar' under which Government could procure sugar from the producers as levy and distribute it to the consumers at reasonable and uniform rates. Similarly, I would suggest to the Government to procure the yarn, dyes and other inputs of the industry in order to distribute them to the handloom weavers at a price in par with the rate at which they are available to the mills. In this regard, I would like to emphasise on the nature and mode of effective implementation of what is formulated by the Government of India. Therefore, in this connection, I would like to know specifically what steps the Central Government would propose to take mainly in allocating financial resources to our State handloom sector and what

arrangements the Central Government are making to lift the accumulated stock of handloom cloth in Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Regarding the problem faced by Andhra, I would like to discuss it with the representative of the Andhra Government in order to find out to what extent we can give some sort of assistance to the Andhra Government. Regarding the suggestion whether there could be something like levy on the producers of these inputs, it is a good suggestion for consideration. But it will be very difficult for me to say anything at this stage. I may say that Government would be pleased in giving all possible protection to the decentralised sector particularly the handloom or powerloom or the cottage industries which are spread throughout in this decentralised sector.

13.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

FIFTH REPORT

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI (Kasaragod) : I beg to present the Fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

14.10½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE. CHANGE IN THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SHAHDARA - SAHARANPUR RAILWAY LINE

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Sir, construction of a new broad gauge line from Shahdara to Saharanpur, in place of the old narrow gauge line which ceased operation in 1970, was approved by Parliament, through the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Railways presented to them in August, 1973, on the basis that a Corporation jointly financed by the