

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MAT-
TERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IM-
PORTANCE(i) ACCUMULATION OF STOCKS OF HAND-
LOOM FABRICS AND CONSEQUENT UN-
EMPLOYMENT OF HANDLOOM WEAVERS

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergod): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The accumulation of stocks of the handloom fabrics in the country particularly in Kerala and the consequent unemployment of handloom weavers.

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): Shall I read it or shall I lay it on the Table of the House?

Mr. Speaker: It may be laid on the Table of the House. It is a long statement.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Sir, I lay the statement on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library, see No. LT-736/63].

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know whether any arrangements are made to render aid by loan on security basis as is allowed to other small-scale industries and whether arrangements are also made to place orders on the handloom industry for the production of such varieties of cloth as are useful for Government purposes, specially, for the armed forces?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As regards the first part of the question, credit to the handloom industry has been considerably liberalised. Regarding the second part of the question, to the extent that Government requirements are necessary we give a price preference to the handloom cloth; so, much

larger off-take is taking place. But that is not substantial compared to the volume of production of the handloom sector.

(ii) RE: HOLDING OF BYE-ELECTIONS

Shri Yashpal Singh (Kairana): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Law to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The reported suggestion made by the Election Commission regarding holding of bye-elections and Government's reaction thereto.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Bibudhendra Mishra): May I lay the statement on the Table of the House?

Mr. Speaker: He might just give a gist in a few words and lay the statement on the Table.

Shri Bibudhendra Mishra: If you will permit me, I shall read it out. It is a small statement.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): How many pages?

Shri Bibudhendra Mishra: Just half a page.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : खांसने वाले हमारे काम में बाधा डालते हैं। क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय का यह कर्तव्य नहीं है कि उन को यहां दाखिल होने से पहले फिटनेस का सर्टिफिकेट दे ?

Shri Bibudhendra Mishra: On the 26th October, 1962, the Election Commission issued a press note stating that, in the Emergency due to external aggression on the Northern frontiers of the country, it had decided not to hold the bye-elections that