

Speaker, Sir, the manner in which Delhi is being neglected is clear from the fact that the Budget for Delhi passed year is.....

MR. SPEAKER: A discussion on the Budget is on the cards.

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying that.....

MR. SPEAKER: If you raise it at that time, more time will be given to you.

SHRI KALKA DAS: What were the Budget allocations for Delhi previously remain the same today at Rs. 920 crore. As it has been pointed out, the Government itself has admitted that Delhi's population increases at the rate of three lakh persons every year and the prices rise at the rate of 12.5%. The Government has admitted that prices go up, but the Budgetary allocation remains the same with the result the allocation for Social Welfare programme aimed at ameliorating the lot of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes have been slashed. While problems are on the increase, the allocation for the solution of problems is on the decrease and the people of Delhi are being denied justice. This is mainly because unlike in the past when the representatives of the people could raise issues in the Metropolitan Council and Municipal Corporation and draw the attention of the Government, today these bodies are non-existent. At present, both these bodies stand dissolved and consequently, Delhi's development is at the mercy of the bureaucrats and there is nobody to check them. As a result, Delhi's problems are increasing by leaps and bounds, the Development has come to a standstill and social welfare programmes in particular have come to a grinding halt.

Earlier, machines were distributed under various development programmes, but ever since the dissolution of the Metropolitan Council not a single machine has been distributed. At present, there are no programme to uplift the Scheduled Castes. Thus, this decrease in the allocation for Delhi tantamounts to injustice. Out of a total

amount of Rs. 27 crore, that is to be given for a period of three months, only a sum of Rs. 9 crore has been given. They have further decreased the amount from the one which was considerably reduced earlier and development work in the capital has come to a stand still as a result of this. Through you I would like to submit to the Government to release the allocated amount to accelerate development work in Delhi.

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit only this much that we have forwarded 25,000 applications from widows for financial assistance so far, but not a single widow has received even a penny to date. When these helpless widows approach the Corporation for assistance, they are told that the Corporation does not have any money. What's more, due to lack of funds in the Government's kitty, contractors have left many projects incomplete.

Therefore, it is my humble submission that the Government should increase the present budgetary allocation for Delhi which is too little.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I want to raise a very important issue concerning the jute workers' strike. More than two lakh workers are on strike for more than one month and every day we are losing six crores of rupees in terms of production. The talks of agreement were over last year and the Central Unions of the workers are demanding for a new agreement. Today, the external market for jute is very good and the owners are amassing wealth. Exports are going up. In this situation, the owners are getting super profits but they are denying a minimum wage of Rs. 2200 which the workers are demanding. The Government of West Bengal is trying to persuade the owners to come to a settlement, but the adamant attitude of the management is forcing the workers to continue their strike. I wrote to the hon. Prime Minister in this regard and he has written to me stating that he is instructing the Textiles Minister and the

Labour Minister to take up the matter to pressurise the jute owners to give up their adamant attitude and force them to come to a settlement, so that we can earn large amounts of foreign exchange and the sufferings of the workers are also reduced. I urge upon the Prime Minister, the Textile Minister and the Labour Minister to intervene in this matter and help the Government of West Bengal so that an honourable settlement can be reached between the workers and the management.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL VARMA (Dhanduka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is well-known that among the indirect taxes, excise duty is the most important source of revenue. It has become very important to bring about improvement in the procedure of levying it in larger public interest. It has also become essential to review the excise duty imposed on textiles.

A fact that has come to light time and again is that in some States, they are unable to collect even the prescribed excise duty. In these areas, the cost of production of textiles seems to be on the increase but the levy of excise duty as opposed to production is very complicated. The Government suffers heavily due to large-scale tax evasion.

Not only this, cloth is available at cheap rates as a result of non payment of excise duty. Consequently, there is a heavy demand for cloth. Contrary to it, the situation in states like Gujarat is worse. Excise duty is strictly levied in the State. Unfortunately, those who pay their excise duty honestly are forced to keep their prices high as a result of which they are unable to compete in the market with low-priced cloth. This has been going on for the past many years, as a result of which the textile industry in Gujarat is facing crisis. (Interruptions) Piece-goods in large number are lying unsold in the markets. The businessmen are so fed up that they are not ready to take up new business. It will certainly have an impact on the mills which will face closure one after another.

Therefore, it is my humble submission to the Government to do away with the Excise Duty on textiles and instead impose it on rayon. This would provide immense relief to the textile industry in Gujarat. I request the Government to issue the necessary directions in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this issue when the Budget is taken up for discussion. Now, please take your seat.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak. Sir, today there is total lack of discipline. I would like to make a submission in this regard. Incidentally, the Textile Minister is present in the House and I would like to draw his attention also to this matter. There are three sugar mills in my areas which are known as the Kanpur Sugar Works. These mills work under the guidance of the British India Corporation and the Ministry of Textiles. A few days back, a new Chairman — — — was elected to head the British India Corporation. The election was illegal. The matter was duly brought to the notice of the Government and is now under the consideration of the Ministry. In this context, I would like to mention that there were large-scale thefts in all the textile mills. This matter was also reported and an inquiry is on. Subsequently, they made an attempt to seize the Kanpur Sugar Works, The Members of the Board of Directors sent an S.O. S. to the Textile Minister requesting a meeting. The hon. Minister refused to meet them. As a result, an attempt was made to forcibly occupy the Sugar Works and they were forced to knock at the door of the Court. Unfortunately, the Court's decision went against them, which I would like to quote here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can't quote papers. This is not allowed. You can't quote from the newspapers.