

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.