

memorandum of agreement/agreement for lease/perpetual lease is taken for violation of its various clauses.

12.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV** (Azamgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the Zero Hour I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important matter. Today representatives of crores of weavers from all over the country are staging a dharna at Boat Club under the aegis of All India Momin Conference. Sir, you, this august House and the Government are well aware of the fact that next to farmers weavers constitute the largest section in the country. They are poor and crores of persons are associated with weaving. In the last few years their condition has become the most pitiable. In Andhra Pradesh several weavers committed suicide as they could not afford to see their children starving. All over the country weavers are organising seminars. Weavers have presented a charter of demands to the Government but the latter has not paid any attention to it. In Uttar Pradesh, especially in the Eastern region of the States, a large number of persons are associated with the industry and their units are closing down. Product of weavers are piling up for want of demand. (*Interruptions*)

Representatives of weavers today are sitting on dharna with a ten point charter of demands. One of their demands pertains to the exorbitant rise in prices of synthetic yarn, whether it is cotton yarn or silk yarn, because the prices of all these yarns have gone up phenomenally since 1989. Weavers are demanding fixation of price of yarn at the rates obtaining in July, 1989. I urge the Government to act immediately on this demand of the weavers. Secondly, the products of weavers for want demand are piling up as

neither the Government nor the cooperatives are procuring their products. One of their demands is the procurement of their products by the Government. The Government allowed the weavers to produce 600 million metre of 'Janta Cloth' with a view to procuring it. But recently the Government has reduced it down to 450 million metre. I urge the Government to ponder over the ten point charter of demands of weavers in support of which they are sitting on dharna today.

I would like to submit that because of your efforts the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the leaders of all the parties agreed to have discussion on the problems confronting the weavers but time could not be allotted for the same. Sir, will the hon. Minister give an assurance to weavers through this House that the Government will look into their problems immediately so that they can be saved from starvation, poverty and unemployment problem? This is my submission through you.

**SHRI RATILAL VARMA** (Dhanduka) Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of the hon. Member, Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav. I would also like to submit to the Government that the condition of weavers in whole of the country is pitiable. In Gujarat also the weavers engaged in the industry for years are finding it difficult to make both ends meet. Products of weavers are not readily acceptable in the market even when they carry them on their backs. Secondly, the declaration of the industry by the State Government as the mass management industry has rendered the weavers of cooperatives, whether be they women, men or children, jobless. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to restart the industry and I would also like to know the steps the Government propose to take to ameliorate the lot of weavers and the assistance the Government intends to extend to them for sustenance?