

(iv) A sum of Rs. 10.75 crores to Orissa, Rs. 9.23 crores to West Bengal, Rs. 11.01 crores to Madhya Pradesh and Rs. 7.65 crores to Rajasthan was released as short-term loan during 1986-87 for purchase and distribution of agricultural inputs including fertilisers.

(v) In order to ensure easy availability of fertilisers near the consuming centres, the number of sale points are being raised by fixing the specific targets for each year.

(vi) Lead Fertiliser Supplier system has been introduced under which State Governments identify a lead fertiliser supplier at State and district level who will take up various promotional activities in each district.

(c) The comparative position of consumption of chemical fertilisers in Tamil Nadu vis-a-vis other States like Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during 1986-87 is given below:-

| State         | Estimated Consumption of Chemical Fertilisers (N+P+K) 1986-87 (Lakh tonnes) | Percentage to total Consumption (All India) | Estimated Per hectare Consumption of Fertiliser nutrients (N+P+K) (Kg./ha.) |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| Tamil Nadu    | 6.65  | 7.4   | 95.70   |
| Punjab        | 11.08   | 12.3  | 158.51  |
| Uttar Pradesh | 18.77   | 20.8  | 74.87   |
| Bihar         | 5.50  | 6.1   | 53.57   |
| All India     | 90.02   | 100.0                                       | 49.91   |

#### **Gas Leakage Case in Rourkela Steel Plant**

8824. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the enquiry committee on the gas leakage case in the Rourkela Steel Plant has been received by Steel Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the action taken against officers due

to whose negligence the accident was caused; and

(d) the details of safety measures suggested to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Enquiry Committee has observed that statutory repairs were started on the High Pressure Boiler No. 4 in Captive Power Plant-I from December 3, 1985. The overhaul of blast furnace gas burnerwelves installed on this boiler hearth

was started on December 7, 1985 by seven contract workmen. While the valve bonnet of Burner Valve No. 3 was being taken out, some amount of blast furnace gas entrapped in the pipe bend between the control valve and the burner escaped, affecting the seven workmen. 11 employees of Steel Plant who were working near by ran to the rescue of the seven affected persons. The seven persons were rescued and sent to hospital immediately. Five affected persons were discharged on December 7, 1985 itself and the remaining two were discharged on December 8, 1985. As a precaution, the 11 steel plant employees who had rescued the seven contract workmen were also admitted for observation in the hospital. Out of these 11 employees, three were discharged on December 7, 1985 and remaining eight on December 8, 1985. All the 18 affected persons resumed duty after the prescribed rest period.

The Enquiry Committee did not find any ground to fix responsibility on any person(s). The Committee held that the incident of gas leakage was neither due to improper maintenance of equipment nor due to any improper work methodology. The leakage of a small quantity of gas was purely accidental. The safety equipment was also in proper working condition.

(d) The Enquiry Committee suggested the following safety measures to avoid such incidents in the future:—

- (i) Steam or nitrogen purging arrangements should be made to remove the entrapped gas.
- (ii) Carbon mono-oxide concentration should be checked every day.
- (iii) The General Manager (Works)'s procedural order for gas shut down jobs should be strictly followed.
- (iv) The water seal over-flow pipe

should be modified to ensure sufficient water level.

SAIL has conveyed that all these measures are being followed and necessary modifications are being incorporated wherever necessary.

[*Translation*]

#### **Destruction of Mango Crop by Insects in Lucknow**

8825. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaint to the effect that the entire mango crop in Malihabad mango belt in Lucknow district has been destroyed due to the sudden attack by insects;

(b) whether a decision has been taken by Government to send a team of experts in the use of insecticides from the Agriculture Department to conduct an enquiry so that the mango crop may be saved; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said team will be sent for conducting an on the spot enquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir. However, Government are aware of the damage caused to the mango crop due to various factors including attack by insects in Malihabad mango belt in Lucknow district.

(b) and (c). A team consisting of Scientists of the Central Institute of Horticulture for Northern Plains, Lucknow, has already surveyed Malihabad mango belt in Lucknow district and has observed that many species of mango hoppers were involved in the damage. Favourable weather conditions prevailing during the season has helped the heavy build-up of the pest. Sprays of insecticides, namely Monocroto-