

Trivandrum, a factory producing Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide (EMD) which is used for manufacturing dry electric battery cells, has declared lay off on 9th June 1984 because of financial constraints. The need for development of this industry cannot be over-emphasised inasmuch as the manufacturers of dry cells in India have to depend on a large scale on imported E.M.D. Further, this factory is utilising sulphuric acid waste of the Travancore Titanium Products Ltd., which, if not properly utilised causes pollution for the chemical reaction in the manufacture of E.M.D. Hence, for ecological reasons also this industry has to be developed.

The present crisis of this industry is only because of bad management. Large amounts were taken as loan from banks and other financial institutions. But they were in a way misappropriated. There are also other irregularities. Wages of the workers were not regularly paid. Their P.F. and E.S.I. contributions were not remitted. Even amounts collected from the employees towards repayment of bank loans were misappropriated by the management.

12.10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In view of the very grave situation prevailing in this industry due to its illegal closure, I would plead that an urgent inquiry may be ordered to be conducted in the whole matter and persons responsible penalised. Directions may also be given to the Travancore Titanium Products Ltd. to take over the T.K. Chemicals as its subsidiary unit for the manufacture of E.M.D. as a by-product. This will be a great boon to the workers also who are under starvation.

(iii) **Need to declare Hyderabad an International Airport.**

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY (Peddapalli) : In reply to the requests made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation is understood to have stated that an assessment is being made about the volume of passenger and cargo traffic between Hyderabad and the Middle-East countries. I request that the survey, if not already made, should be made

quickly to declare Hyderabad as an International Airport and introduce at least limited international services from Hyderabad to meet the growing demands of the people.

(iv) **Need to provide adequate funds for anti-erosion measures to check erosion by the Ganga and Bhagirathi rivers in West Bengal.**

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI (Nabadwip) : A very large population in West Bengal living on the banks of the Ganga and the Bhagirathi up and downstream of the Farakka Barrage have either been displaced or are threatened immediate displacement due to large-scale and serious erosion by both the rivers. The erosion in the district of Murshidabad will ultimately engulf the Railway line, National Highway, State Highway and the embankment and Feder Canal of Farakka Barrage project. It will also disrupt the communication system in this Indo-Bangladesh border area and cut off the northern districts from the rest of West Bengal. In the district of Nadia, more than seventy villages and townships on the Bhagirathi are in the process of being eroded away in the Nabadwip constituency alone. The historically important memorial at the site of the homestead of the famous poet Krittivasa, author of the Bengali Ramayana, also faces immediate destruction. The resources of the State Government being unequal to the task of effective anti-erosion works of such a great dimension, the Central Government should immediately come forward with adequate funds for anti erosion measures on the banks of the two national waterways.

(v) **Demand for setting up industries in Raigarh district of Madhya Pradesh.**

KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI (Raigarh) : Raigarh district in Madhya Pradesh is predominantly inhabited by tribals. It is one of the industrially backward districts of the State. There is only one jute mill established at Raigarh in 1935. When the whole world including India is making rapid progress in the field of industry, Raigarh is lagging far behind in this sector. It is unfortunate that the district has been placed in 'B' category despite the fact that the percentage of industrial growth in Raigarh is zero during the last 50 years.