

In the guidelines laid by the Commission, adequate provisions have been made for adjustment of the rival claims of the farmers affected by the shift in the course of the river.

Unfortunately, sincere efforts have not been made by the States authorities for the settlement of the rival tenancy claims resulting in interminable private litigation and more often than not use of unrestrained violence.

Farmers of Bhojpur in Bihar are the worst victims as their tenancy rights are not being recognised whereas their counterparts in U.P. have been duly accorded the tenancy rights by the Government of Bihar.

As the harvesting of the rabi crops is approaching, the entire area is tense and seething with discontent.

I once again urge the Central Government to intervene in the matter and provide a lasting solution to this vexed problem.

(vii) **Air Pollution in Visakhapatnam (A.P.)**

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam): Sir, It is shocking to know that even after the Bhopal disaster, the industrialists are still playing with the lives of people by not taking all the necessary steps to control the emission of smoke, dust, toxic fumes and poisonous gases of specified by the Air Pollution Control Authorities under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

As a consequence of violation of pollution control by the private and public sector industries in Visakhapatnam, thousands of people are exposed to serious health hazards. For instance, in the early hours of 2-2-1985, thousands of people in the industrial neighbourhood experienced serious air pollution demaging effects including serious pain the throat, cough, breathing difficulties, pungent smell, watering of the eyes and irritation in the lungs. The fumes were so dense that for about an hour one could not even see a person at a metre's distance. Some people have fled to safe places towards the North of the port area that harbours highly polluting major industries like Hindustan Zinc, Coro-

mandal Fertilisers, Hindustan Petroleum Refinery and a few medium industries like steel mills.

Among the pollutants discharged into the air are, sulphur dioxide toxic metallic dusts, smoke, fumes and gases that contain harmful substances including the Benzopyrines that cause cancer.

In view of the above facts, I would like to make the following suggestions :—

- (i) Necessary air pollution control equipment may be installed in the industries at Visakhapatnam.
- (ii) The industries may be directed to instal necessary meteorological instruments to gather daily weather data for forecasting atmospheric inversions and to cut down some of their operations during critical hours as they do in Japan and USA for protecting the public health.
- (iii) An emergency response system be developed to avoid repetition of industrial accidents of the Bhopal type.
- (iv) A special Commission may be set up to plan and implement this system as in U. K., Canada and Netherlands with representatives of the Navy, State Pollution Control Board Industries concerned and the local university.

[Translation]

(viii) **Need to conduct elections to local bodies on schedule.**

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : The roots of democracy have gone deep and become strong in our country. The people of India have accepted it. They have, from time to time, given proof of their discretion, knowledge and wisdom in this regard. But it is a matter of regret that even today the democratic bodies in our country, which are the foundation-stones of democracy, are being administered not by the representatives of the people but by the bureaucrats. In many States, the elections of Panchayats, Munciple Committees and City Councils are not held for years together and the fate of the people is entrusted to the bureaucrats. The consequences of all this have to be