

cooperative industries in the rural areas. The investment required as farmers share would also be large. It is, therefore, requested that the Central Government may revise the policy decision and allow the Farmer Cooperative Sugar Factories of the capacity of 1250 T.D.C. Such decision will go a long way to enable the small and marginal farmers to enter into modern industrial area through cooperative effort.

- (iv) Demand for restoring full exemption of import duty on VCM or continue pre-budget import duty of 10 per cent on it to prevent closure of M/s Dharangadhra Chemical Works Ltd., Thiruchendur, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN (Thiruchendur): Under Rule 377, I would like to bring the following matter to the notice of the Government for urgent action.

Sir, in my Constituency, in Thiruchendur District, Tamil Nadu, the only major industrial unit, namely, M/s. Dharangadhra Chemical Works Limited, have been wholly depending on the import of Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM) - an intermediary raw material - in the manufacture of PVC resin. About a decade ago, this major industrial unit had been forced to become sick and ultimately closed down rendering thousands of workers unemployed and creating lot of other problems in the constituency. However, with the exemption of customs duty and providing other concessions by the Government, this unit was revived and production of PVC resin and other materials has since been in full swing.

In the current budget of 1987-88, the Central Government has withdrawn the concession and also increased the import duty on VCM from 10% to 25%. This increase of import duty to 25% will seriously affect the Unit and it will be extremely difficult for the unit to absorb this increase in duty. It is again feared that the unit under reference is likely to become

sick, ultimately leading to closure and rendering thousands of people out of job.

I would therefore request the Government kindly to restore the full exemption on the import duty on VCM or at least continue the pre-budget position of import duty of 10% on VCM so that the Unit may continue to be a viable one.

- (v) Demand for measures to protect villagers and their cattle from tigers escaping from Tiger Project of Sunderbans.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joy-nagar): Sunderbans in West Bengal is not only famous for its natural scenic beauty, flora and fauna, but also for its Tiger Project, which is a star attraction for the tourists. Till lately, the tigers from this Forest Reserve have started intruding into the nearby villages like Rajat jublee, Jamespur under Police Station Gosabha, Lahirpur Gram Panchayat after crossing the small stream which lies in between the Reserve Forest and these villages. These marauders have started taking serious toll of cattle in these villages and have killed a number of cows, sheep, goats etc., apart from inflicting injuries on the farmers who tried to offer resistance and protect themselves and their cattle from the tigers' onslaughts. It is unfortunate that no action has been taken by the Tiger Project authorities either to prevent the escape of these tigers from their abode in the forest or protect the villagers. Nor has any compensation been paid to the farmers for the loss of their precious cattle and for the injuries inflicted on them by these ferocious animals. I would request the Project authorities to extend all help and cooperation to these hapless victims of the tigers in this area and win their hearts.

- (vi) Demand for immediate action to counter Pakistan's anti-India propaganda

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Sana): Pakistan, under the influence and guidance of some