

machinery. It is also not just and proper that the research complex of one full-fledged State should be under the administrative control of an Institute functioning in another State. Goa has neither an Agricultural University nor even a college.

In the circumstances, Union Ministry of Agriculture should take immediate steps to upgrade the said Agricultural Complex at Ella, old Goa, into a full-fledged Institute.

- (iii) **Need to take steps to help the engineering industry in the country to overcome the crisis caused due to shortage of raw materials, etc.**

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur): Engineering industry in the country is in precarious condition. The engineering units are facing crisis due to shortage of raw materials, low capacity utilisation and financial constraints. The continuing shortage of steel is playing havoc with this industry.

Most foundaries in the Western region are languishing as supply of pig iron has not been adequate and regular. The full requirement supply scheme of Government of India has a drawback as specific requirement of industries for thinner or thicker coils of particular sizes are not met due to which the units had to make huge financial arrangements in advance in a short time. Many mini steel plants are heading towards sickness due to scarcity of melting scrap and rising cost of scrap in international market.

I would like to suggest to Government to take the following immediate measure so that the engineering units overcome the crisis situation:--

- (1) The Steel Authority of India Ltd. should change the present distribution pattern of scarce raw material through different schemes instead of producing more to improve the availability of indigenous steel; and
- (2) The proposal to consider fiscal incentives in the form of import

duty, reduction on scrap, exemption from excise duty and modvat facility to mini steel units should be implemented without any further delay.

- (iv) **Need to check illegal felling of trees in the Country particularly in Orissa**

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL (Phulbani): Large scale smuggling of timber in Orissa has assumed threatening proportion. Timber, teak, piasal and rosewood are smuggled out regularly from the forests in connivance with a section of forest authorities. Despite illegal felling of trees, authorities remain apathetic. They ignore such goings on since the smugglers maintain close ties at high levels. According to an estimate 58 per cent of the forest in Balangir district alone has been destroyed. Forest in a large area in Phulbani district has been destroyed too. In many areas of the State logs are burnt for manufacturing Charcoal which is sold at Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 per bag. Huge Stocks of timber worth several lakhs of rupees which is lying in depot is being destroyed by worms. Besides, timber is often carried away in bullock-carts and trucks in connivance with a section of forest department authorities and often transported by boats through the Mahanadi. According to one estimate, the State is losing forest products worth Rs. 100 crores every year owing to natural or man-made fires.

The unabated felling of trees has an adverse effect on ecology in State, resulting in recurring floods, drought and other natural calamities. The farmers suffer on account of large scale degradation of forests. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to issue necessary instructions to the State Governments in this regard and save the forests from destructions.

- (v) **Need to increase the quota of edible to Maharashtra**

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): The State of Maharashtra is a deficit State, so far as edible oil is concerned. In Maharashtra, groundnut oil is

the main cooking medium and the requirement of this oil is mostly met from the other surplus States such as Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka through normal trade channels. Besides this, the Government of India allots imported edible oil on monthly basis. Till July 1988, the monthly allocation of edible oil was 11,000 M.Ts. From August 1988, the Central Government has increased the allocation by 2500 M.Ts.

Maharashtra State is the most urbanised State in the Country where about 35 per cent of the population stays in cities. The requirement of this urban agglomeration would be estimated at 7,600 M.Ts. per month if the allocation is kept at 2 Kgs. for each card holder and the requirement of rural areas will be about 10,600 M.Ts. per month in case-allocation is 1 Kg. per card. Thus, the total requirement of the State is 18,000 M.Ts. as against the present allocation of 13,500 M.Ts. The allocation from the Central Government is thus much less than the requirement of the State. I urge upon the Central Government to increase it to 18,000 M.Ts.

- (vi) **Need to restore the old timings of Nilanchal and Delhi-Puri Express trains and restoration of withdrawn trains passing through Orissa**

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): The new railway timings introduced from 1st November 1988 are very much inconvenient to the passengers going from Delhi to Bhubaneswar and back. The time coverages of Nilanchal and Delhi-Puri Express has been increased by more than 2 hours than the earlier time coverage. The timings of starting of these trains from Delhi and Puri are also very inconvenient. Now these trains have been shifted from New Delhi Railway Station to Nizamuddin Railway Station which is also inconvenient. As a matter of fact the Members of Parliament from Orissa had categorically expressed their views while discussing with the hon. Railway Minister that this change will not be convenient and existing arrangement is better and should continue. It is unfortunate that the Railway Ministry has changed

the timings and increased the coverage of time for both Nilanchal and Delhi-Puri Express trains.

It is distressing that the Railway Ministry have withdrawn a number of trains passing through Orissa which is causing much inconvenience to the passengers. In the district of Baleswar an agitation is going on against the new railway timings and withdrawal of the trains.

I urge upon the Railway Minister to restore the old timings and time coverage of Nilanchal and Delhi Express. I also urge upon the Government to restore the trains that have been withdrawn.

- (vii) **Need to urgently set right the telephone system in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): As the telephone system in many parts of Tamil Nadu is almost non-functional, various telephone users' associations made repeated representations through telegrams and memoranda to the Department and also to the Ministry of Communications. But there has been no improvement.

Frustrated, telephone users' associations in many parts of Tamil Nadu resorted to *bandhs*, *dharnas* and processions in large number in many district headquarters. *Bandhs* were total success and peaceful. Though in some cities like Tirunelveli and Dindigul, law and order situation was about to deteriorate but it was controlled by the VIPs leading the procession.

Thereafter they filed writ petitions in the High Court.

The High Court have restrained the Telecommunications Department from collecting the telephone bills and disconnecting them for non-payment, as the plea of the telephone users was justified. I, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Communications to intervene urgently to set right the telephone system in Tamil Nadu.