

should in all fairness get the benefits under the scheme are in fact denied such benefits. This results in despair and resentment among the farmers making the scheme quite unpopular.

For proper implementation of the scheme and to give reasonable relief to the farmers, Gram Panchayat should be the unit both during kharif and rabi seasons to assess the crop loss instead of block and district respectively during Kharif and Rabi crops as at present. Further the present yield should be the basis for the purpose of assessment of crop loss and not the yield as recorded in the old settlement records.

(viii) Need to start a 'Free Trade Zone' centre at Tirupati

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati) : Sir, Rayalaseema is a backward area where Tirupati stands having its airport and other facilities. It is midpoint to Madras and Bangalore and also located in the central point of South India. Due to the importance of this place there is every need to start a 'free trade zone' centre at Tirupati apart from Vizag of Andhra Pradesh.

12.35 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1986-87—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 1986-87.

Yesterday, we decided to extend the time by half an hour to accommodate a few Members. There are still six Members who want to participate. I will request the Members to cooperate and finish within five minutes. Thereafter the Minister will reply.

Shri Chiranji Lal Sharma.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the

other day an hon. Member was speaking about shooting price of tractors in the country. I happened to go to the market a few days ago to purchase some steel and stainless steel material and I was simply stunned to see the prices. I asked the shopkeeper what the reason was. He started arguing and said that the Government was to be blamed for it. The production of steel is much less than the demand.

Steel industry is recognised as the largest sector of economy and evidently our country's industrial and economic health depends on the development of this important sector. To improve the production of steel in this country and to reduce the dependence on imports, a bigger outlay of Rs. 6420.13 crores has been provided in the 7th Plan as against an outlay of Rs. 4000 crores in the 6th Plan. In the year 1975-76, the total steel output was 6.21 million tonnes and in 1985-86, the total output is 10.07 million tonnes. Out of this, the output from ore-borne plants is 7.07 million tonnes, whereas 3 million tonnes is the output of the mini steel plants. The mini steel plants output is about 30 per cent of the total steel output.

What was the production of stainless steel in India and other countries in the year 1984 ? It was Japan—25.91 lakh metric tonnes, USA—16.08 lakh metric tonnes, Sweden—4.42 lakh metric tonnes, Spain—2.92 lakh metric tonnes, France—6.46 lakh metric tonnes and India—1.51 lakh metric tonnes.

The Planning Commission has estimated that shortage of finished steel of 1.5 million tonnes would continue to afflict the Indian economy throughout the 7th Plan and it would further worsen in the 8th Plan. What were the reasons ? The input is not of right quality and quantity.

The mini steel plants have played a very vital role in the development of different grades of alloy steels and stainless steel to meet the growing demand for defence, automobiles and industrial applications. The growth of domestic stainless steel production is particularly praiseworthy as the production increased from nearly 12,000 tonnes in 1977-78 to 150,000 tonnes last year. This is further likely to increase to