

way in achieving for the first time self-sufficient in all types of cotton required by the industry. It has won national recognition, both by the Government of India and the industry through no less than four awards won by them.

In spite of the very good work already done, the Regional Station at Coimbatore, employing over 250 people, and the cotton project itself are handicapped by lack of proper independent status. Administrative delays and lack of appreciation of the work at Nagpur have hampered the progress of the project, in addition to causing frustration to the scientific and technical personnel of the Regional Station.

I understand that a proposal has already been submitted for the creation of an independent project Directorate of Cotton, on the lines of similar Directorates for Rice, Pulses and Oilseeds in the country. The proposal is also under the consideration of the ICAR and it has been referred to the Planning Commission for its decision. The financial outlay for the entire project for the Sixth Plan period has been estimated around Rs. 3 crores. Therefore, the raising of the cotton project, along with the Regional Station to the status of a Project Directorate, does not involve any additional financial commitments.

In view of what has been stated above, I request your goodself to sanction the creation of the Project Directorate for Cotton at Coimbatore.

(ii) Reported death of two Workers of Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam due to suffocation in a gas Chamber.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): Two workers of the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, died on 18th March, 1980, while they were on duty, due to suffocation in a gas chamber. These deaths have taken place due to the non provision of proper safety

appliances. The negligence agitated the other workers who demanded peacefully that adequate safety appliances should be provided by the management. They had every right to express their protest against the negligent attitude of the management which caused death to two of their colleagues. But the management tried to crush their protest voice by inducting police resulting in serious skull injuries to many workers. The workers were attacked while performing their duty. I am giving below the full text of the telegram which I have received from the Hindustan Shipyard Labour Union, Hindustan Shipyard Staff Union, Visakhapatnam:

....Civilian workers of Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, inhumanly lathicharged on twentieth morning at workspot by State police resulting in grievous skull injuries and bone fracture to several innocent workmen...consequent upon death of two workmen on eighteenth while on duty due to non-provision of safety appliances...Naval Dockyard management tried to camouflage situation by calling State police who resorted to unprovoked lathi charge on workmen while on duty...request institute judicial inquiry and to reprimand inhuman attitude of state police...

Hindustan Shipyard Labour Union,
Hindustan Shipyard Staff Union.

This is a very serious matter and I request the Minister concerned to make a statement thereon.

(iii) Piling up of Steel ingots in public Sector steel Plants.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): Sir, I beg to raise the following matter under Rule 377:

"When imports are unable to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of steel, more than 5.5 lakh tonnes of ingots have piled up at the public sector steel plants as the power shortage has affected the working of rolling mills.