

Under the Act every formulator has to get a registration number from the Central Insecticides Board, Faridabad for which an application with a challan for Rs. 100 for each product has to be submitted along with 7 copies of labels and leaflets.

Until 1974, formulators were freely given registration numbers but thereafter the CIB started insisting on each application being accompanied by Bio Efficacy and Toxicological data. Mostly the insecticides used in India have been in use for 10 to 30 years and to call for such complicated data now for virtually obsolete chemicals is unrealistic and beyond the scope of small scale formulators. Our plea that such basic scientific data should be generated by the government or the big manufacturers of raw materials went unheeded.

While many small scale industries were denied registrations for several popular products, a few were able to get them because of their influence in CIB. The favoured few thus were able to create monopolistic pricing and distribution methods resulting in artificial scarcity and higher prices to the farmer.

The CIB should (a) adopt a policy of equality and fairness to all formulators and (b) generate expensive and time-consuming data themselves for products if introduced newly into the country and make this data and recipe available to small scale formulators.

Because of registration difficulty, many small scale pesticide formulators have become 'sick' while a selected few have built up enormous empires. The partisan policy of the CIB need correction to evolve a uniform and helpful attitude towards small scale units. Applications submitted as early as 1971-72 are still pending in CIB while late-comers in 1977-78 have been awarded registration for many popular

products. I request the hon. Minister to look into the matter.

(xi) SHORTAGE OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES IN NORTH EASTERN TRIBAL STATES DUE TO AGITATION IN ASSAM

DR. R. ROTHUAMA (Mizoram):
I rise to make the following statement on a matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

Continued widespread agitation in Assam has brought about a near famine situation in the whole north-eastern States of Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland with respect to the supply of all essential commodities like rice, edible oil, kerosene, petrol, sugar, salt, etc.

During my recent visit to Nagaland and Meghalaya I personally found that all public transport system had remained completely paralysed due to complete absence of diesel, petrol in all the petrol depots in the States. I myself had to walk a long distance on foot at Shillong in the severe cold of that night since all the taxis in Shillong remained off the road due to the non-availability of petrol.

In Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, all the local papers highlighted the grim situation brought about, as a result of all the petrol depots being completely dried up. This has very severely aggravated the supply of all essential commodities to the far interior areas.

I request the Central Government to give special attention to the supply of all essential commodities to the far-flung North-Eastern Tribal States and take effective steps to revitalise the supply line to these States and thereby ensure the steady flow of essential commodities in the face of current mass agitation in Assam so that nobody dies of starvation in these areas.