

(iii) Need to provide the workers engaged in spraying of pesticides with adequate protective equipments, clothes, etc.

*SHRI A.C. DAS (Jajpur) : According to the study conducted by the Oxford Committee for famine relief (OXFAM) an estimated 10,000 deaths occur every year in the third world countries and over 3,65,000 people suffer from chronic and prolonged health problems because of the use of pesticides. In India, the study said the farm workers engaged in spraying in Gujarat and plantation work in Karnataka were not provided with face masks. Only 50% covered their nose and mouth with a cloth and 20% failed to wash after spraying. Highly toxic pesticides were applied without protective clothing. These pesticides restricted in the West might be cheap, but they are extremely hazardous in a country like ours where the conditions necessary for safe use did not exist.

In view of this, I request the Government of India to direct the concerned State Government to provide adequate protection equipments, clothes, etc., to the farmers where such pesticides are being used by the farmers.

(iv) Need for speedy rehabilitation of Sri Lanka Tamils

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dindigul) : The rehabilitation work in respect of Sri Lanka Tamils should be executed expeditiously and efficiently in the interest of the aggrieved Tamils in Sri Lanka. Preferably, a Tamilian should be appointed as High Commissioner in Sri Lanka in the larger interest of Tamils in particular and our country in general. During Bangladesh war, a Branch Secretariat was opened in Calcutta for the purpose of rehabilitation of the affected people and to solve the problem of refugees. Here also it is essential to open a Branch Secretariat at Madras for liaison work between the State and Central Governments. I, therefore, request the External Affairs Minister and the Prime Minister to consider this legitimate demand and to fulfil the same.

(v) Reasons for fall in the production at Rourkela Steel Plant

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : The fall in the production of Saleable steel in the public sector steel plants is a matter of great concern. In Rourkela Steel Plant the production has been continuously showing a declining trend. The Rourkela Steel Plant produced 33,034 tonnes of saleable steel in April 1983, whereas the production was 60,524 tonnes in the corresponding month in 1982. The reason cited for the fall in production by Steel Authority of India Ltd. is the power cut imposed by Orissa State Electricity Board. But it is actually not a fact. Except during May, June, July 1982 and April 1983, in all the remaining eight months the power supplied from O.S.E.B. has been increased. Moreover, Rourkela Steel Plant is also generating power from its own captive power plant. Therefore, the argument that production of saleable steel came down due to power shortage is not correct. The largest blast furnace No. 4 has broken and was out of order for many months. The plant authority did not publish this news. This is the main reason for the fall in production.

As such, I request the Government to investigate the affairs of Rourkela Steel Plant to find out the main reasons that led to the fall in production and take all possible steps to check irregularities in the management of the Steel plant.

(vi) Suggestions for effective implementation of self-employment Scheme for the educated unemployed youth

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : I would like to congratulate our Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi for announcing two new major job schemes for the employment of educated manpower of the country, on the historic day of 15th August 1983. I hope that these schemes would create substantial employment opportunities for rural youth, as well as for the educated unemployed youth of urban areas.

The new self-employment scheme for