

What I mean is that some steel gets harder and does not remain soft. Plates and sheets which are supposed to be of a uniform size have to be cut and trimmed by the customer and as a result thereof, its cost increases. It also results in fall in production of the small sector units which in turn pushes up their cost of production. I want to know from the hon. Minister the percentage of steel rejected by Government during the inspection before the steel leaves the plant. These people have to purchase that rejected lot in the open market at full price. I want to know what arrangements have you made to check this malpractice and if no arrangements have been made will they be made in the near future ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sir, of the lots that are rejected, some steel is sold as rejected and not as good quality steel. Whoever purchases it, purchases it as a rejected lot.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : There is no clear distinction that such and such lots are rejected ones ; this item is always in short supply. The other point that I want to raise is that a number of items manufactured in the steel plants carry a premium of Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3000 per tonne. The people do not lift these items and your officials compel the dealers to lift those items also which have no ready market. They sell the goods at a premium. This type of situation prevails at present. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that he should see to it that the production in the Steel Plants conforms to the requirement. The item that has a large demand should be produced more and the one which has a lower demand should be produced less. But what is happening at present is exactly the opposite. The item which has no demand is being produced more whereas the one which is in short supply is being produced less. Another point which I want to mention is that the rejected goods do not bear any stamp to the effect that these are the rejected goods. As a result of it, the people cannot distinguish between the rejected and the quality goods and they have to buy it. This is the factual position. I want to know what steps do the

Government propose to take to check it ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sir, the hon. Member has raised two points. The first is whether stamping on the rejected goods is done or not. I shall gather information on how it is sold and whether stamping is done or not. The second point which he has raised is that some items which are called 'slow moving items' are sold by mixing them with 'fast moving items'. This is true and the reason for doing so is that the market changes with the time. Today, you have certain installed capacity, but the current market projections will change within two to three years. To that extent, some adjustment in that has to be made and, I think, the situation today is not that the hon. Member has explained, i.e., the items that are in greater demand are produced less. Only those items which are in greater demand are produced more, but marginal production of such items is also undertaken which are not in that much demand. Therefore, we have to produce both the items.

[English]

Setting up of Turmeric Centre in A.P.

*749. **SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has decided to set up a turmeric centre in Andhra Pradesh during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, the site selected for the purpose and other details of the project in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Centre will be one of the Coordinating Centres of the All India Coordinated Research Project on spices to function under Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University from 1986-87.

(b) The site for the above centre has not yet been finalised. An allocation of Rs. 2.25 lakhs has been made for the

centre during the plan, of which Rs. 1.69 lakhs would be the ICAR'S share and Rs. 0.56 lakhs State's share. The Centre will mainly work on selection of suitable varieties of turmeric for Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, Andhra Pradesh stands first or second in the matter of area under turmeric cultivation, but unfortunately, the per acre yield in Andhra Pradesh stands third in the country with only 27.5 quintals per hectare. The per acre yield of turmeric in Tamil Nadu is 52.9 quintals and in Karnataka it is 35.7 quintals. I am happy that the Government has at last realised the need to start a Centre for Research on spices. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when the setting up of the Centre will be finalised. The Centre should be set up either at Cuddapa or Duggirala in Guntur district which are very famous for turmeric production. Will the Government take all steps at the earliest for starting of the Centre for Research and evolve the best varieties that are suitable for the soil, temperature and irrigation conditions in different parts of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I have already said that we are going to set up the Centre and the finalization would be as early as possible.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Turmeric is a very important commodity which is daily used in every household. Apart from that, it is one of the important export items and the export earnings are increasing every year from it. The export earnings increased from Rs. 5 crores in 1981-82 to Rs. 72 crores in 1984-85. The farmers are, however, not getting the real benefit. Many a time, the prices vary between very high and very low. The prices are very low, specially when the crop is with the farmers. In order to stream line the production of turmeric, will the Government take immediate steps for deciding on a minimum support price to the farmers to help them from distress sales ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :

The Government never wants that the farmer should suffer. Whenever there is a request from the State Government, immediately it is done. NAFED is acting as a nodal agency for procurement. Prices are declared immediately whenever it is required. We did it in the case of coconut also. When the prices fell, we procured coconut at Rs. 1200 per quintal. We are doing in other cases also, but the State Government has to request us.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : I wanted to know, whether the Government intended to fix minimum support price for turmeric.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : For all commodities, it is not necessary. Whenever it is necessary, the State Government comes forward and requests to the Central Government and we do it.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Misra.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Sir, turmeric is extensively grown in the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh and especially in the Deoria and Siwan district of North Bihar. Its yield in these districts is also good. I would like to know whether you would arrange to set up similar research Centres there also ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : We have done it in Andhra Pradesh because it was needed there. We shall see when a similar need is felt at other places also.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Sir, today you are in a very happy mood. If you remain in the same joyous mood in the Zero Hour, we also feel happy. I congratulate the hon. Minister for setting up a turmeric Centre in Andhra Pradesh. At the same time, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the number of the farmers likely to be benefited from this Centre ? Drinking water is scarce there. It may just happen that on boring \geq e may find that there is no underground water. Therefore, first take into account

all these factors and then allot a Centre to Andhra Pradesh. Centre should not be allotted just as a formality because in such a situation no one would be benefited in the real sense.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already said that they are conjecturing.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the proposed Centre will benefit the farmers of the entire State as also the farmers of other States.

[*Translation*]

Emission of Gas, Smoke effluents by Khetri Copper Project

*750. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government propose to take any measures to check the adverse effect on the health of the local people and the crops in the area as a result of gas/smoke emitted by chimneys and the concentrated water/effluents drained out by the Khetri Copper Project ; and

(b) If so, the details thereof ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA). (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). The Hindustan Copper Ltd. has undertaken the following measures to check the adverse effect of Gas/Smoke emission and effluents from the Khetri Copper Project :—

- (i) The sulphurous gases from the smelter are utilised to produce sulphuric acid;
- (ii) The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute

(NEERI), Nagpur has been engaged as Consultant on air pollution and an action plan for control of sulphurous gases has been drawn up, which has been approved by the Rajasthan Board for Prevention and Control of Pollution.

- (iii) The Mine water emanating from Khetri Mine is consumed entirely by the concentrator plant and there is no discharge. In Kolihan, the mine water is substantially consumed internally and the quantity discharged is very small. The quality of water in both the places is within the prescribed norms;
- (iv) The tailings of Concentrator Plant are discharged into a Pond and complete prevention of escape of solids has been achieved ; and
- (v) Effluents of the acid plant and refinery are neutralised with lime.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, dangerous smoke and gas emitted through chimneys of the Khetri Copper Project adversely affect the crops of the local farmers and the crops, which already have a very low yield, are destroyed. I want to know what steps the hon. Minister proposes to take to save their crops ? Secondly, due to discharge of the effluents from the Project, which they have stored in a pond, the taste of the water in wells within a radius of nine kilometres has been spoiled. May I know what steps are being taken to check it ?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sample surveys and periodic checks have been conducted in the neighbouring areas to examine the effect of gas emitted by the chimneys and the survey, that is conducted every month since 1980, has shown that because of production in the Hindustan Copper Project no damage has been caused to the crops in that area. So far as the pollution of drinking water is concerned, I