

not been possible to prevent exploitation of more than 75 per cent workers. Despite all these efforts, it has been possible to get accreditation forms of only one-fourth workers filled and to get benefits of various legal provisions extended to them. It is, therefore, necessary to make more efforts to get accreditation forms of more workers filled.

There is a provision to grant Rs. 5000 from the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund to workers for the construction of houses. Out of this amount, Rs. 1000 is given in the form of a grant-in-aid and the remaining Rs. 4000 in the form of a loan without interest. But in a big state like Madhya Pradesh, where there are 15 lakh Beedi Workers, it has been possible to construct only 200 houses during the last 10 years. It is a very serious matter. One of the reasons for this is that land is not easily available for the construction of houses. The second reason is that in the present time of high prices, it is not even possible to construct a single room with Rs. 5000. Therefore, keeping in view the above difficulties of Beedi Workers, on the one hand the Department of Labour may please enhance the amount of grant for house-building and on the other arrangements may be made with the State Government to provide land to Beedi Workers at cheap rates.

[English]

(v) Need to set up a Railway Station at Epurupalam in Prakasham district, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI C. SAMBU (Bapatla): Epurupalam is a major panchayati located in Prakasham district, Andhra Pradesh. The panchayati has 40,000 population. Most of the people of this town are depending on handloom business and agriculture. There is no railway station at Epurupalam. People are facing lot of problems in going to other places and are facing lot of inconveniences to send their handloom cloth and agricultural produce to different destinations. There is one railway station at Chirala which is too far from there. I have submitted a representation from the people of Epurupalam and panchayati to the

General Manager, Vijayawada and General Manager, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh to provide a railway station at Epurupalam. Survey was completed in favour of Epurupalam but the work has not yet started.

I request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to open a mini-railway station and issue suitable instructions to the railway authorities to stop the passenger trains at Epurupalam.

(vi) Need to take-over Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Ltd., Bhadra Vathi (Karnataka) by SAIL

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravati, Karnataka is one of the oldest and prestigious steel plants founded by engineer-statesman Dr. M. Visvesvaraya. This iron and steel works has been incurring huge losses for the past few years and the State Government is not in a position to extend financial help and modernise the steel plant. This steel plant can be run on profit and it is possible to modernise it if the Steel Authority of India takes it over and runs it. The Government of Karnataka has already requested the takeover of the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited by the Steel Authority of India. It is requested that immediate decision should be taken to take it over by SAIL.

(vii) Need to provide more edible oil (Palmolein) to Maharashtra

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): The prices of edible oil along with all other essential consumer goods have risen very high. They are already out of reach of the common man and something has to be done by Government to control them.

The State of Maharashtra is a deficit State so far as oil and oilseeds are concerned. The State has been receiving imported edible oil (Palmolein) from Government of India. In July 1987, in all 13,200 M.T. of Palmolein oil has been allotted to Maharashtra. The next few months from August to