

machinery. It is also not just and proper that the research complex of one full-fledged State should be under the administrative control of an Institute functioning in another State. Goa has neither an Agricultural University nor even a college.

In the circumstances, Union Ministry of Agriculture should take immediate steps to upgrade the said Agricultural Complex at Ella, old Goa, into a full-fledged Institute.

- (iii) **Need to take steps to help the engineering industry in the country to overcome the crisis caused due to shortage of raw materials, etc.**

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur): Engineering industry in the country is in precarious condition. The engineering units are facing crisis due to shortage of raw materials, low capacity utilisation and financial constraints. The continuing shortage of steel is playing havoc with this industry.

Most foundries in the Western region are languishing as supply of pig iron has not been adequate and regular. The full requirement supply scheme of Government of India has a drawback as specific requirement of industries for thinner or thicker coils of particular sizes are not met due to which the units had to make huge financial arrangements in advance in a short time. Many mini steel plants are heading towards sickness due to scarcity of melting scrap and rising cost of scrap in international market.

I would like to suggest to Government to take the following immediate measure so that the engineering units overcome the crisis situation:--

- (1) The Steel Authority of India Ltd. should change the present distribution pattern of scarce raw material through different schemes instead of producing more to improve the availability of indigenous steel; and
- (2) The proposal to consider fiscal incentives in the form of import

duty, reduction on scrap, exemption from excise duty and modvat facility to mini steel units should be implemented without any further delay.

- (iv) **Need to check illegal felling of trees in the Country particularly in Orissa**

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL (Phulbani): Large scale smuggling of timber in Orissa has assumed threatening proportion. Timber, teak, piasal and rosewood are smuggled out regularly from the forests in connivance with a section of forest authorities. Despite illegal felling of trees, authorities remain apathetic. They ignore such goings on since the smugglers maintain close ties at high levels. According to an estimate 58 per cent of the forest in Balangir district alone has been destroyed. Forest in a large area in Phulbani district has been destroyed too. In many areas of the State logs are burnt for manufacturing Charcoal which is sold at Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 per bag. Huge Stocks of timber worth several lakhs of rupees which is lying in depot is being destroyed by worms. Besides, timber is often carried away in bullock-carts and trucks in connivance with a section of forest department authorities and often transported by boats through the Mahanadi. According to one estimate, the State is losing forest products worth Rs. 100 crores every year owing to natural or man-made fires.

The unabated felling of trees has an adverse effect on ecology in State, resulting in recurring floods, drought and other natural calamities. The farmers suffer on account of large scale degradation of forests. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to issue necessary instructions to the State Governments in this regard and save the forests from destructions.

- (v) **Need to increase the quota of edible to Maharashtra**

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): The State of Maharashtra is a deficit State, so far as edible oil is concerned. In Maharashtra, groundnut oil is