

India. When most of the factories under the CCI are sick, Bokajan unit is showing profit. Now the Government has decided to sell the factories which come under the CCI. The Bokajan unit may also fall in line.

Assam is very much backward in the field of industry. A few Central Government as well as State Government run public sector industries are there in Assam. The private entrepreneurs do not want to invest in the State as they feel that the infrastructure needed for the industries is very poor, the markets for finished products are far away and the extremist forces and insurgents are also working there.

Under such a situation, the public sector is the only hope. No new industries are going to be established in the near future. On the other hand, the unemployment problem is growing to a new height. Therefore, the old profit-making public sector industries must be saved.

Keeping this in view, I urge upon the Government to save the profit-making Bokajan unit of the CCI. Instead of selling it to the private sector, a separate company should be floated and it should remain a public sector undertaking. It would help the industry and it would also take care of the interests of the people of Assam. Thank you.

Damages caused by heavy rains in Tamil Nadu

SHRI R. KAMARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House damages caused by the recent rain which lashed Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts of Tamil Nadu, Sir, 95 per cent of the paddy which was ready for harvesting was fully submerged due to rain. The Thanjavur Central Cooperative Bank and the Cooperative Central - Bank at Kumbakonam have already paid Rs. 45.60 lakhs and Rs. 57.37 lakhs respectively as premium under the Crop Insurance Scheme. But due to the unfortunate rain, paddy and pulses worth crores of rupees have been damaged. The Tamil Nadu Government has released Rs. 50 crores as relief money to help the farmers. The crop insurance authorities had conducted a harvest test in these three districts in the month of January, 2002 and submitted a report to the GIC. Sir, due to heavy rain, only 10 per cent of the total cultivation had been harvested by the farmers. The General Insurance Corporation should not go by the reports already submitted to them by the officials in the month of January. I would request

the authorities to conduct one more harvest test and then give the compensation according to that test. Sir, I had raised this issue in this House through a Special Mention on 22.8.2001 and requested the Government to modify the method of crop harvest test in order to provide relief to the affected farmers. Every year, the farmers of Tamil Nadu are facing this problem. Therefore, I would request the Government to find out a permanent solution to the problem in order to help the poor agriculturists of Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

Establishment of an IIT at Basra, District Adilabad, Andhra Pradesh

SMT. VANGA GEETHA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the initiatives taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to encourage expansion of technical education are commendable. There has been a consistent growth of infrastructure for technical education in Andhra Pradesh. The State Government has also evolved a unique industry drawn system for establishing Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIT) at Hyderabad with the active participation of major IT corporate groups. I welcome the move by the Central Govt, to encourage upgrading of various technical institutions, upgrading of the Regional Engineering Colleges to the status of Deemed Universities and conversion of the status of the Roorkee University into an IIT. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had written to Shri I.K.Gujral, the then Prime Minister, way back in 1997, to consider sanctioning of an IIT-cum-IIM in Andhra Pradesh. But nothing has been done. With the kind of expansion taking place in technical education, it is considered imperative to have an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Andhra Pradesh. The establishment of an IIT in this State will create a positive atmosphere for promoting technical education in this part of the country. It would not only serve as a centre of excellence but it would also be a source of inspiration for other institutions in the State in improving their standards. Therefore, I would request the Government of India to establish an IIT at Barar, in Adilabad District of Andhra Pradesh; this is a picturesque town located about 210 kms. north of Hyderabad, on the banks of the Godavari river, and is famous for the temple of "Gyan Saraswati", the Goddess of learning. The State Government is ready to give the required assistance, in this regard.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.