

Seventeenth Loksabha

an>

Title: Need to instruct National Mineral Development Corporation to supply iron ore at concessional rate on long-term basis to Vizag Steel Plant.

DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI (ANAKAPALLE): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very important issue.

Sir, we have the Vizag Steel Plant, which is the only steel plant built on people's demands and sacrifices. "*Visakha Ukku, Andhrula Hakku*". So many agitations took place at that time. It is the only plant of its kind, and more than one lakh people are getting employment directly or indirectly from it.

Sir, 'Vizag Steel' is the only public sector undertaking with its corporate office left for the residual Andhra Pradesh. The most backward area of my Constituency, North Andhra developed mainly due to this gigantic plant. But the problem is that 'Vizag Steel' is being operated without iron ore captive mines since its inception whereas other public sector steel plants under SAIL are having their own mines. So, due to lack of iron ore captive mines, 'Vizag Steel' is bearing a burden of around Rs. 1,000 crore per year.

So, I would request the hon. Minister of Steel, Government of India to please talk to the National Mineral Development Corporation, which is supplying iron ore to Vizag Steel Plant since its inception, to give it at a rationalised price – production cost plus profit margin – on long-term basis, at least, for 10 years or till we get our own mines.

Thank you so much, Sir.