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Title: Regarding disinvestment proposal of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant, Bhadravathi, Karnataka.

SHRI B. Y. RAGHAVENDRA (SHIMOGA) : Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

I would like to draw the attention of this House to the issue of disinvestment proposal of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant. The VISL is situated in Bhadravathi which is in my constituency. It is a Union Public Sector Undertaking and it is a property of the people of Karnataka. It was the first public sector undertaking in this country. This year, we are celebrating the centenary year but unfortunately, VISL is under the dark cloud of privatisation. It is a hundred year old public sector undertaking in this country.

The VISL was handed over by the Government of Karnataka to the Government of India on 10th August. During this process, the State Government cleared all the debts and handed over the golden key to the Steel Authority of India Limited.

As per the information which I have for the last 30 years from 1989 to 2019, SAIL has made an investment of only Rs.157 crore for supply of raw material and maintenance out of Rs.75,000 crore investment in other SAIL Units.

I would like to request the Government for withdrawal of disinvestment proposal of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant. I would also request the Government to invest liquid capital for renovation of

VISL. There should be job security for the present work force. The contract labour should be given job for 26 days in a month instead of the current practice of giving job for 11 days in a month. The process of removing contract labour should be stopped with immediate effect. The Government should take its possession and start mining activity. This is my prayer.

HON. SPEAKER : Kumari Agatha Sangma – not present.