

personnel of R.A.C have been killed, but the Government does not give any compensation.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You need not speak for each other.
(Interruptions)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Are you satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister? (Interruptions)
[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us understand that every Member is wise enough, intelligent enough, has a very powerful language at his disposal and is able to defend himself. So, please don't take up others causes.

Vijayanagar Steel Plant

*512. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has chosen ESSAR Gujarat as the Joint Sector partner for setting up of the Vijayanagar Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Union Government is likely to clear the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) M/s. Karnataka State Industrial Investment & Development Corporation Ltd. (KSIIDC), a State Government Undertaking of the Government of Karnataka, has selected M/s. Essar Gujarat Ltd. as their joint sector partner for setting up of an integrated steel plant in Bellary District of Karnataka. The proposed capacity of the Plant, at completion, is estimated to be 3 MTPA. The product mix will include low carbon, medium carbon, low alloy, medium alloy, high alloy, flat products in the form of strips, sheets and coils and special steel in the form of Bars and Rods and Structural.

In view of the recently announced changes in the industrial policy, a licence is not necessary for setting up this project by KSIIDC.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Sir, our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi

laid the foundation stone of Vijayanagar Steel Plant in the year 1971-72 but even after 20 years no progress has been made with regard to this plant. Now, a joint sector has come forward to take up the work. May I know from the Government, whether they are going to set up this Vijayanagar Steel Plant in the 8th Plan at least and see that it is completed within a stipulated time?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, it is a fact that the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indiraji laid the foundation stone of this Plant but subsequently due to constraint of funds, this particular project was not started. Now, under the new Industrial Policy which the Government of India has announced in July, 1991, there is no need of getting any licence from the Central Government and neither the Central Government is of the opinion to set up any public sector steel plant.

The Government of Karnataka has sponsored ESSAR Gujarat as the Joint Sector partner for setting up of the Vijayanagar Steel Plant. We shall extend whatever help is necessary from our Ministry to the Government of Karnataka and I am sure that the State Government will see that it is started immediately.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: I would like to know what was the estimated cost at the time of laying the foundation stone and what is the estimated cost of this plant today, that is what is the escalation.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, since this project is not with us, I cannot give the exact figure but in the year 1970, the projected cost was about Rs. 1000 crores. I am sure escalation will be there due to this devaluation and change of technology. Only yesterday I got a letter from the Hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri. Bangarappa. As it has come only yesterday, we are examining it and we will give a suitable reply.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, I would like to know whether setting up of Vijayanagar Steel Plant was originally included in the Plan programme; if so, what has made the Government to take it out of the plan programme now because just now the Minister said that due to the

change in the Industrial Policy, anybody is free to set up the plant.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, it is a fact that it was not included in any Plan. It was thought that it should be a public sector undertaking. Not only this, there is also another plant in Orissa.

In 1991, a proposal was made to the Cabinet. The Cabinet decided that in view of the constraint of funds, no public sector steel plant will be sponsored in any part of the country but the Government will give all necessary help, if the concerned State Governments start joint sector companies.

As per this new proposal, the ESSAR Group will be there. Meanwhile, there will also be a change in Policy. But as per this Policy, it is up to the State Government to take necessary action ... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked whether it was originally included in the Plan proposal or not.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I have told you that it was included in the Plan proposal but adequate allocation was not made. So, it was not taken up.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the total number of applications received for setting up these Plants in the joint sector? Out of this, the Karnataka Government have preferred ESSAR Group to set up these plants in the joint sector. May I know whether the technology which has been adopted by the ESSAR Group, that is the Chinese technology, has been approved by the technical experts of the Government of India?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, it is a fact that the technology which is thought of for this particular Plant, is based on Chinese technology. Our Ministry has supported it. Now, it is up to them to take necessary action.

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in Andhra Pradesh, in Kakinada, the ESSAR Group has already acquired 600 acres of land and paid the amount... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Not like that.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Will the Minister take this fact into consideration that when the former Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi laid the foundation stone of this Steel Plant, it was an agreed demand on behalf of the people of Karnataka that after having given full consideration that a new Steel Plant has to come in that part of the country and also taking into account the large scale availability of iron-ore in Karnataka. Now the Minister is saying that if the State Governments take initiatives by way of joint sector Steel Plants, they will provide all help.

Will the Minister take into consideration that if joint sector steel plant comes up, the Government of India will also make its financial contribution for that plant? It should not only be limited to just giving clearance for foreign exchange but will the Government of India consider— if they are not going to have any Steel Plant in the public sector and if they have taken a policy decision— them to become the partners in the joint sector steel plants?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: There is no such proposal received from the Karnataka Government and I do not think there is any possibility regarding this also.

Crops Covered Under Crop Insurance Scheme

*513. PROF. UMMA REDDY
VENKATESWARLU:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to State:

(a) the Crops covered under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend the Crop Insurance Scheme to all the Crops in different States; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

(b) and (c) Presently, wheat, paddy,