

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There can be no further discussion on this.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Amendments should be considered so that deliberations on it could be done. Both the tenants and traders are agitating. The Hon. Minister should accept these amendments.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : What is the meaning of subjudice. An individual goes to court, and wants it to be implemented. The direction is not required from the court rather it is required from Govt. It is not subjudice.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We cannot discuss that matter now.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Government in Delhi is elected Govt. It constituted a committee, consisting of members from all parties and it has suggested some amendments, which should be given due regard. The Hon. Minister should see that after due deliberation on the amendments, it should be enacted. These amendments are not only in favour of tenants but also in favour of traders. Otherwise the conflict will increase between tenant and the landlords.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Goel, no submission is allowed after the Minister's statement.

Now we shall proceed to Item No.24 of today's agenda.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Whatever has been passed in the committee, should be implemented.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand the procedure of the House. Please take your seats. The procedure of the House is that we cannot have a discussion after the Minister's statement. Please understand that.

Now, we shall proceed to Item No.24 of today's agenda, that is, Calling Attention.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga):

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all this Act should be enforced.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the problem with you ?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I would like to say that first of all this Act should come into force and only then amendments should be brought.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Fatmiji, what are you doing ? What is the matter ?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I would like to make an appeal. I was the member of committee. The Act should be amended.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether you are a Member of that Committee or not is a different matter. After the statement of the Minister, it is the practice of the House that we do not discuss further on it. You can take up in whatever form you like.

Now, let us take up Item No.24, namely, Calling Attention.

14.20½ hrs.

[English]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of non-revival of the sick units of IDPL etc.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Chemical and Fertilizers to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Situation arising out of non-revival of the sick units of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

14.21hrs.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER : If the statement has been circulated, I think the Minister can place it on the Table so that we will save some time. You may place it on the Table of the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Please take up matters under Rule 377 first.

MR. SPEAKER : We will take them up after 6 o' clock.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Bill regarding reservation of women has to come up today. That is the priority.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : Sir, I beg to lay the Statement on the Table of the House:

Sir, the attention of the august House has been frequently drawn towards the present position of sick pharmaceutical and fertilizer undertakings under Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizer. The concrete steps have been taken by the Govt. for the revival of these companies. Presently, inspite of the shortage of Budgetary Resources all possible assistance is being provided to the operative units of these sick Govt. undertakings to keep them running. The position regarding Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Limited (I.D.P.L.) is as under :

I.D.P.L. which is facing continuous loss from the very beginning, was declared sick by Board of Industry Finance and Reconstruction (B.I.F.R.) in August, 1992. The revival package formulated by the I.D.P.L. management, was approved by B.I.F.R. As a part of revival package an important capital restructuring plan costing Rs. 435 crores has been started. Moreover, As it is mentioned in the package, another financial assistance of Rs. 119.94 crores has been provided. During the year of 1993-94 to 95-96 Govt. provided on assistance of Rs. 140.31 crores.

Inspite of the Financial assistance and capital Restructuring IDPL could not achieve the set target during the first year an operating agency of IDBI has examined

the revised revival plan submitted by the IDPL management and presently Union Cabinet/Govt. is actively considering the matter relating to revival of IDPL. During 1996-97 Rs. 33.02 crores was provided to IDPL by the Govt. as an assistance to resolve the problems of IDPL.

The Govt. has released funds to IDPL to pay the salary upto March, 1997. In addition after the approval of central Budget the funds would be released to pay the salary for the month of April, 1997. With regard to fertilizer undertakings the present position is as under :-

Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) has three operating units in Sindry, Ramagundum and Talchur and one closed unit of Gorakhpur. As on 31.3.97 the cumulative loss of the company was Rs. 3408 crores, whereas its authorised capital was only Rs. 800 Crores. The company was declared as sick unit by BIFR in 1992. After an accident in June, 1990, the production in Gorakhpur unit could not be started again. The total manpower of FCI in 7533.

A provision of Rs. 332 crores has been made in 1997-98 to provide budgetary support to FCI. With a view to meet the compulsory capital investment and to make good of the loss suffered by the company.

The operating units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (H.F.C.) are located in Namroop, Durgapur and Barauni. Namroop complex has three plants, out of them Namroop-II is closed for shortage of gas since August, 1994. Haldia project of H.F.C. has been completed but it has not become operative. As on 31 3 1997 the cumulative loss of H.F.C. was Rs. 3610 crores whereas its authorised capital was Rs. 750 crores. This unit was declared sick by BIFR in 1992. The total manpower of H.F.C. is 8483.

A provision of Rs. 184.34 crores has been made in 1997-98 to provide Budgetary support to H.F.C. with a view to meet the compulsory capital investment and to make good of the loss suffered by the Company.

In the operating unit of FCI and H.F.C. the capacity is not being fully utilised due to old plants, and the problems caused by lack of infrastructural facilities and paucity of fund.

The limited revival of the above units of FCI and HFC was proposed in revival package formulated in 1995 for rehabilitation of FCI and HFC. It was estimated that Rs. 1736 crores would be required for FCI. Revival of Gorakhpur unit was not found feasible. Because it would have necessitated the instalment of a new Ammonia - Urea plant. It was estimated that a new investment of Rs. 465

[Shri Sis Ram Ola]

crores would be required for the units of H.F.C. The revival of Haldia Project was not found feasible technically and economically. These revival package could not be implemented due to non-availability of funds.

An expert group under the leadership of Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) was thereafter constituted to reformulate the revival package from the standpoint of funding by Financial Institutions (FIs). The expert Group has put the requirement of fresh investment for the revival of Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI at Rs. 2638 crore and that for the revamp of Namrup, Durgapur and Barauni units of HFC at Rs. 869 crore. In addition, various other financial reliefs and concessions in terms of write off of loans and accumulated interest aggregating to Rs. 5006 crore are envisaged to make these packages viable.

Given the magnitude of the fresh investment and other reliefs required, a due diligence exercise bearing on the multiple dimensions of the issue has been undertaken in the Government. Inter-ministerial consultations have focussed on the economics of different options available. For reasons of budgetary constraints, efforts are being made to optimise the participation of FIs in the rehabilitation schemes. The operating agency appointed by the BIFR is also engaged in formulating draft schemes for the revival of these companies. The Government is committed to bring about an expeditious and judicious decision of this complex issue in the overall national interest.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, at the outset, I profusely thank your honour for having admitted the Calling Attention Motion and thus providing us an opportunity to raise this very important issue involving human sufferings, etc.

This has two parts. Firstly, the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited is a living pioneer public sector undertaking dealing with manufacture of life saving drugs and secondly, there are the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and the Fertilizer Corporation of India which are the public sector undertakings in the fertiliser industry. Fertiliser is the basic input for our agriculture and thus this is also very important. But these two sectors which come under one Minister, that is, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers have gone sick. These organisations have gone sick and I think that the statement given by the hon.

Minister is a disappointing one in the sense that we wanted to know the situation prevailing in these two sectors but he has said nothing about it. The plants have been closed down. They are not working and even the employees are not being paid their minimum salaries for months.

I would first talk about IDPL. All its units have been closed since October, 1996. After the first phase of implementation of the revival programme, this organisation despite sickness, was doing very well. Its units at Guregaon and Rishikesh were working over time in the places where there was plague or other epidemics. At that time, in some places there was black marketing, sky rocketing of the prices of drugs like Penicillin, Tetracycline, etc. These drugs were sold at the rate of Rs. 30-35 per capsule. Had this organisation not functioning there, you could not imagine what would have been the situation there.

I would now come to the Report of the Standing Committee on this subject. I would be very brief. I would also like to quote from the latest Annual Report of the Ministry. It has been mentioned :

"The setting up of the Penicillin factory at Pimpri, Pune, in early fifties and the construction of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited plants at Rishikesh and Hyderabad in the sixties have been the milestones in the history of pharmaceuticals in the country. These have been the building blocks on which the structure of pharmaceutical industry in India has been built."

This has been mentioned by the Ministry in their latest Report of 1996-97, which was placed before this House. In this background, I would say that there has been a lukewarm attitude, indifferent attitude of the Ministry towards its revival. I am not going into the circumstances.

MR. SPEAKER : Panigrahi, you cannot make a speech. You can only ask clarifications.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Yes, Sir, I am seeking clarifications with regard to IDPL.

One after the other, there are seven Reports of the Standing Committee and the latest report on IDPL has mentioned this. The report are the outcome of the collective wisdom of the Standing Committee, which is regarded as a mini-Parliament where Members of all the political Parties, from both the Houses, are there. What has been the observation and the recommendation of that Standing Committee ? I would conclude about IDPL by quoting from the report. I am quoting from page 28 of the Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals.

Because of time constraint I am not quoting other thing. I says :

"In Committee's view the early revival of IDPL is a must for successful implementation of Health for All by 2000 AD Programme."

They have further talked about what should be done.

MR. SPEAKER : Panigrahi, you are going out of rules. You have to confine yourself to the statement made. You cannot go on referring to the Annual Reports.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I appeal to you with folded hands, as this is a very-very important subject concerning the bread of lakhs of workers. This has a national bearing. This is a question of self-pride, national pride. It is a question of self-reliance. We should tackle it together. We are celebrating the 50th year of our Independence. The public sector was the brain child of the chief architect of modern India, the first Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru. He used to call the IDPL and the fertilizers sector as the modern temples. They are being demolished now. With much anguish and pain I am saying all this. We are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. This is a question of national pride. With folded hands I would, therefore, beg to you to give me some more time.

All unions are united. They are prepared to sacrifice the work force. The first phase was cleared. There were slippages here and there. The Standing committee of Parliament visited IDPL Headquarters.

They also scrutinised everything and pointed out the lapses. But no heed was paid to that. There was very bad management. It was the first project to be cleared by the BIFR for revival. But with halfhearted approach they went ahead and that is why it has failed. It is capable of being revived. It is capable of being revived if they give Rs. 264 crore. All parties and managements together brought out the revival plan. If that is implemented and if some purchase guarantee by the Government is given to it, it can be revived. I am not going into the details of how it went sick. The IDPL was forced to supply its produce at less than its production cost to Government agencies and it is capable of being revived if they give Rs. 264 crore. All parties and management amount arrived at by the expert group is given, there is no doubt about its survival and revival. It is a must. The Committee also recommended that it is a must. I am not going into details.

The Minister in his statement today stated that after

the Budget is passed, he will release further amounts. The Budget is already passed. They are starving. Their salary for the month of March is paid only yesterday. We have brought all these things before Parliament. We have given notice to the hon. Speaker. This is the utility of Parliamentary democracy that we are allowed to bring something and that had some effect on the bureaucracy. Please release some money and pay their salaries. When you are giving them salaries, try to give working capital so that the plants start working. Now the prices of drugs are skyrocketing. There is no regulatory body to control all these things. With this I conclude the IDPL issue. I will now switch over to fertilizers.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Panigrahi, you are a very senior Member. You know what is a Calling Attention. You cannot have a debate like that. You can only ask a pointed clarification on the statement.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I obey you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : We have Broadcasting Bill to be taken up. We have Women's Bill to be taken up. Why do you not understand ? I think you have made your point.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : One part of my submission is over. The other part is with regard to fertilisers. As you know, Sir, this is a complicated issue. Many things are combined in it. That is why I profusely express my gratitude to your honour and request you to allow me another five to seven minutes to conclude.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, the question does not arise. It is never done. Please conclude.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I will only put questions on fertiliser. The problem of sickness has been gone into in detail by the Cabinet, the Group of Ministers, the BIFR, the consultancy and others. The Group of Ministers, that is, the Government, gave its approval in April, 1995. Thereafter, the funds were to be arranged. Two agencies were coming forward for that. The Exim Bank of Japan was willing to invest. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what happened to that.

Now they say that although it was cleared, because money could not be located they are giving a second look to it. We went for ICICI as the operating agency again. A firm named Fergusson was engaged. I do not know what sort of expertise that firm has in this regard. That is a Chartered Accountancy firm. They are now coming forward with some contradictory recommendations. What happened to the proposal when two leading international financial

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

institutions – the Exim Bank of Japan and some other institution called something like European Continental – were coming forward to fund this project? What happened to that proposal? The only thing they were asking was for a Government guarantee. What is the harm in it, if the Government comes forward considering the utility of these projects?

In India, per hectare consumption of fertilizer is the minimum. At 75 kilograms per hectare, it is less than the world average of 95 kilograms per hectare. Our neighbour Bangladesh is at 102 kilograms per hectare. As you know, we are having an economic growth of 7.23 per cent.

In the case of Agriculture, our growth rate is on the decline. Our agricultural growth is not even matching our population growth. This is the situation. Fertilizer being the basic input, we should have self-sufficiency in fertilizers.

In today's situation, we are going in for import of about 23 lakh tonnes of urea. If this is the situation and if all the units of HFC and FCI put together are revived, there will be an additional production of 23 lakh tonnes of urea. These projects are revivable. If Talcher unit is closed, naturally there will be no heavy water and that is something which will have a bearing on our defence preparedness. Thousands of workers' families will also lose their bread. In the Committee of Secretaries and everywhere, the Government says, 'yes, they are feasible, revival programme is feasible'. . . .(Interruptions) There was a Group of Secretaries. One thing is that everybody supports revival. . . .(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : You are compelling me to take a decision to the effect that I will never call you in the Calling Attention discussion in future.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am concluding, Sir.

The Group of Secretaries have said that they are not to be revived. A project of Sindri of FCI and another project of HFC will be revived. There is a lurking fear everywhere, among the workers and also among the cultivators. In view of self-reliance, I would like to have a categorical assurance. We cannot also depend so much on import of huge quantity of foodgrains, etc. that is why, I would request that the Government should take every step and particularly, if the Government gives a guarantee, the agencies are willing to come forward to invest in this sector. I do not know why there is no provision. Here, only a minimum amount is provided. But there is a propaganda going on, even in

the electronic media that Rs. 1100 crore is there for Talcher and for some other things. . . .(Interruptions).

My concern is that in the national interest, as I said, we have to have self-reliance. We have to be self-reliant in the fertilizer sector. The funny argument is that imported fertilizers are sold in India at prices less than our indigenous fertilizers. This argument will hold no water after some time. We have seen this with regard to other things. When they find that our plants are closed down, naturally, the situation will be taken advantage of and there will be a shortfall and a price increase.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing more will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the mills of Hindustan Fertilizers Limited and Fertilizer Corporation of India are located in the Eastern and in the North-Eastern parts of India, starting from Barauni, Gorakhpur and Durgapur. In the North-East, Namrup in Assam and Talcher in Orissa, all have become sick. Sindri is one of the oldest public sector undertakings. While inaugurating this public sector undertaking in 1952, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said:

"I am inaugurating the modern temple of modern India."

Sir, we are importing urea. In 1995-96, we had imported 37.83 lakh tonnes of urea. This year, we have imported Rs. 3,047 crore worth of urea. Next year, we will be importing 23.20 lakh tonnes of urea by spending Rs. 2,184 crore.

This year, an amount of Rs. 2862 crore has been earmarked to import urea. Our indigenous production of urea should be augmented through revival of sick public sector fertilizer companies like Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, Fertilizer Corporation of India.

The revival proposal was approved by the Government of India on 24-4-1995 with a total investment of Rs. 2201 crore with a guaranteed production of 23 lakh tonnes of urea per annum. Now the Government of India proposes to spend more amount for the current year to import urea. Although the proposal was approved by the Government of India earlier, it is quite surprising that on 21.4.1997, a Committee of Secretaries submitted a report totally reversing the proposal which was approved by the Cabinet. The report of CoS also went against the recommendation

* Not Recorded

of the Standing Committee on Petroleum. The Committee of Secretaries recommended that except the two Units, one of Fertiliser Corporation, that is, Sindri modernisation and another at Namrup, all the other units should be closed down. The reason put forward by the CoS is that the imported price of urea is less than that of our indigenous urea. It is a conspiracy. The conspiracy is to cripple our fertilizer plants so that we continue to depend on the import of urea from the foreign countries. If all the units, particularly in Eastern India, starting from Gorakhpur to Namrup and Talcher are closed down, the entire Eastern Indian will be affected and our indigenous production will be crippled.

I want to know from the Minister as to when the Government of India approved the revival package, why was it not implemented within one year? Why was the revival package of Durgapur unit of HFC not started and the unit is functioning only for three months in a year? Why have two units of Namrup plant been closed down? Why has it not been implemented? If IFFCO can invest in a new fertilizer plant at Mangalore, when it has got the surplus fund to invest in a new plant at Mangalore, why can that fund not be utilised for revival of plants at Durgapur, Talcher, Namrup and Barauni also? What is the fate of Haldia Fertilizer unit? The construction of the unit was completed in 1986. At least, four or five committees were appointed to look into the matter. All the committees recommended for its revival. But the Government of India slept over the matter for these 11 years. It did not take any decision either to revive it or to do something with such a huge fertilizer complex unit. May I know from the Minister whether he will take proper steps to re-start the production of Haldia Fertilizer Company of HFC?

Sir, IDPL is a premier drug and pharmaceutical company of our country. It has supplied drugs to the common people of our country and this company has made our country self-sufficient in the manufacturing of essential drugs. Why has this company suddenly fallen sick? It is because of mismanagement, and that too because of the policy of the Government. When the country was opened, the policy of liberalisation was adopted and the multinational companies were being invited, the prices of drug were being increased, the common man has to purchase drugs at a higher price.

All the reports of the Standing Committee recommended for its revival. This Tenth Report of the Standing Committee has very categorically said that it must be revived. A company which is not an expert in drugs and

pharmaceuticals, Fergusson & Co., was appointed to examine the viability of this company and they submitted a report. Their recommendation is that more than 7,000 workers are to be retrenched.

All the unions related to this have come together and have prepared a revival package. Today at 5 o'clock, they will be submitting their report. A Cabinet Committee has been constituted and they have suggested that with less investment and by selling the surplus land, this company can be revived without retrenchment of the work force.

The hon. Minister has stated that the Government is considering this. I want a categorical reply from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider the revival package submitted by all the trade unions along with the management and whether it will try to see that all the units of the IDPL are revived. I would also like to have a categorical reply from the hon. Minister that the salaries which have not been paid for quite long will be paid to the workers regularly.

Only yesterday the salaries were released. We do not want that idle wages be paid to the workers but we want that the production is started without any delay. The hon. Minister should assure the House on two very important public sector undertakings of this country.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister. It is a fact that import of urea, valued at Rs. 2184 crore during 1996-97 has been enhanced for the year 1997-98 to the tune of Rs. 2,862 crore. It is a fallacy that India being an agricultural country, is becoming dependent more and more on multinationals, thanks to the IMF, World Bank diktat.

This too is against the public sector fertilizer plants that we have built for the last so many years with a motive of becoming self-reliant, at least in this sector. It has been deliberately made sick due to the wrong policy of the Government. The revival package for Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India were approved in principle three years back in 1995 with a fresh investment of Rs. 2201 crore.

The Report containing the recommendations was also presented by the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals to Parliament on 13.4.1997. I would like to have the replies to the following queries.

What is the reason behind abnormal delay in finalising the revival plants of FCI and FCI units? This delay has resulted in increase of cost from Rs. 2,200 crore in 1992

[Shri Haradhan Roy]

— when the units were declared sick — to Rs. 3,500 crore when the revivals plans were approved by the Government in 1995.

Sir, the Committee of Secretaries have reversed the decision of the Government in their meeting held on 21.4.1997. I would like to know how the Committee of Secretaries could reverse the decision of the Government when their only function is to implement the recommendations and decisions.

I would also like to know whether the Government is going to implement the decision already taken for revival of the fertiliser plants. If so, when ?

As regards IDPL, I share the views expressed by Shri Panigrahi and Shri Basu Deb Acharia and I am not adding anything in this respect.

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will not be right to say that the wages have not been paid to the employees of I.D.P.L. A provision has been made to provide funds for payment of wages up to 31st March to the employees of I.D.P.L. and the payment of wages for the month of April has been asked to be made within a week. I took this issue of revival of I.D.P.L. to the cabinet. A committee of a group of cabinet Ministers has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Finance Minister and it consists of Shri Chaturanan Mishra, Agriculture Minister, Labour Minister and myself. Perhaps, its meeting is going to start at 3.00-3.15.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : That has been postponed.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : If postponed, it does not matter. It would be held tomorrow. . . (Interruption) You should try to listen to me. Previously you were saying that entire House is united. Now you are not taking it seriously. What you are saying. I am giving a meaningful talk and you are behaving like this. What you get out of it. I am making a submission that I am deeply concerned about the worries of the Members and to take all these things to the cabinet for revival was not a simple matter. Despite this I have taken it and this is the situation on such an important decision. I can not say that what decision will be taken by the group of Ministers. But I am of the opinion that it should be revived. Rs. 710 crores are required for the revival package of I.D.P.L. out of it Rs. 104 crores for

Rishikesh, Rs. 6 crores for Hyderabad, Rs. 14 crores for Gurgaon, Rs. 3 crores for marketing Base Rs. 117 crores for capital and Rs. 156 crores for giving compensation etc. to some employees who will take retirement, Rs. 310 crores for case losses will be required. Earlier also we have provided money for this purpose and in spite of giving this money the Government has fully co-operated for revival. Rs. 133 crores were given to I.D.P.L. as assistance. Even after this I.D.P.L. could not achieve the target and this company is running into losses since its inception. Despite this there are 8 thousand employees employed there. Every Government which cater to the welfare of the employees is duty bound to think over it, from all the angles. The Government is worried about the future of eight thousand employees and it is being thought that some better condition of revival would emerge.

Due to some reasons, a meeting of group of Ministers could not be held today. It would be held after 2-3 days. You need not to be worried about it.

I do not know what will be the decision of the Group of Ministers. I am trying . . . (Interruptions) I myself have raised this issue. This is the situation of I.D.P.L. You please listen to me. I have listen to you much but you are not listening to me. You are saying that they have not got their salaries, but we are giving salary to everyone. We are also giving salary to the employees of Haldia . . . (Interruptions) Everybody is getting salary . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can't do like that.

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : In F.C.I., there are three fertilizers units which are located at Sindhri, Ramagundam and Talcher and the units of H.F.C. are located at Durgapur, Barauni and Namrup. If we want to revive these units and so far as an amount of rupees 1162 crores is required for which a mention has been made by you about the Japanese bank. In this regard it is stated that Japanese bank has not laid down any condition for us and no such guarantee has ever been taken by any bank so far which has lend money. Despite this, if any financial institution comes forward for lending money, it is only a share of an amount of rupees 1162 crores. The Government have to give an amount of rupees 2445 crores. . . (Interruptions). You Please don't interrupt. Please listen to me the Government will have to give an amount of rupees 2445 crores.

MR. SPEAKER : You don't look at that side, please look at this side only.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : I will try. We will take up the issue for revival. Now, it depends upon the Government that how much weightage is given to it. I am very much concerned with the feelings of hon. Members and respect their feelings. We will take up this issue with the Government. I can not say what will be the decision of the Cabinet. I will try my best. In F.C.I. and H.F.C., there are 7533 and 8483 employees respectively. F.C.I. and H.F.C. have been provided a budgetary support of rupees 332 crores and rupees 184.74 crores respectively for the year 1997-98. The employees are not doing any work. This amount has been given for their salary. . . (Interruptions) It is not correct to say that they are not getting their salaries. The Government is giving salary to them regularly . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. Don't look at that side.

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : We would like that they do their work. We should know about their output and the nation should be benefited from their production and they should get their salaries. It would be our endeavour.

You have made a lot of hue and cry with regard to Haldia unit. Haldia unit was started in 1972 and since then, nothing has been produced from this unit.

15.00 hrs.

For this purpose, several attempts were made since 1979 but despite all the efforts a commission could not be constituted for it till 1986. In this regard a question was also raised in Rajya Sabha. We have constituted a committee for this purpose. The Committee will give its report after examining the all aspects of its working that what can be done and what can not. . . (Interruptions) That report should be submitted as early as possible. We have nominated three members i.e. Shri Satyapal, Shri Jethia and Shri Chakravorty for this committee. They will submit their report. If these units are to be revived then an amount of rupees 5,606 crores will be required for this purpose and which have to be written off. Besides, an amount of rupees 3500 crores are further required. If the Government and the Minister of Finance provide us that amount, then

the revival of the units can be done otherwise I will do my all endeavours on your behalf and then I will inform you the position later on . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, he has not replied to one question. I would like to know whether the Committee of Secretaries have submitted a report on 27th April to revive only two units, the Sindri Modernisation Project and the Namrup-III. Is it so ?

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : I think we should not pay attention to these petty matters.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is not a petty matter.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : The decision of the Government will be final. The Secretary is not above the Government. Every thing will be done with the consent of the Government. So we should not pay any attention to these issues. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Government has approved the revival package. After that how could the Committee of Secretaries recommend the revival of only two Units ? . . . (Interruptions) It is a question of national interest . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : I do not know whether the urea money is coming back or not. The urea money involved may be Rs. 140 crore. I think he has mentioned that he is short of money. What is the position of the Rs. 140 crore coming back to the country ? That urea money has gone abroad . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think it has got any relevance to this question. I do not think that you have to answer.

(Interruptions)

DR. ASIM BALA : It is a question of national interest. Please give a ruling on this . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : We have just 28 minutes left with us. I cannot allow you any more. We have a lot of important business to transact today.

Now, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy to introduce the Bill.