

unfortunate that when the House is in Session, the report in this regard is appearing in the newspapers and this report has not been brought before this House till date. The Home Minister is sitting here and I would like to request him that report should be placed in the House immediately...*(Interruptions)* About 300 persons have died...*(Interruptions)*.

Chairman, Sir, the Home Minister is sitting here and he is prepared to reply. Therefore I would like to know as to when the report is going to be placed in the House. It is appearing in the newspapers but it has not been brought before the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Chairman, Sir, I would express my point in brief. The Chairman and the Joint Managing Director of NTC Shri B. Balasubramanyam had given a statement last month. Shri Venkatswamy who had been a Minister in the previous Government, then a decision was taken that all the NTC Mills will be reviewed and modernised. A renewal fund was constituted for this purpose but now only last month a statement has been given in Kanpur that 11 NTC mills located in Uttar Pradesh can not be reviewed. This is an assessment because of which the employees are quite agitated and there is a widespread resentment among them. Out of this 11 mills 5 are located in Kanpur and among them Lakshmi Ratan Cotton Mills, Myore Mill and Artherton Mill can certainly be reviewed because the condition of machinery is quite good and they are having generating sets also. In addition to these mills Swadeshi Cotton Mill, Maunath Bhanjan Mill, Naini Allahabad, Raybareilly Textiles can also be revived...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I am expressing my point in brief that the salary paid to the employees of the NTC mills in U.P. as idle wages amounts to Rs. 3 crore 90 lakhs per month. If the Government just spent 10 to 20 crores on these mills then this amount can be reduced. Another matter of concern is that the retired employees have not been paid their Provident Fund. The reason therefor is that the mills have not deposited the provident fund and ESI amount since 1991 and the outstanding amount is about 27 crores. These are my two points. First, at least two mills in Kanpur should be revived which is quite possible and secondly the payment of 27 crores rupees should be made so that the retired employees and these who have sought VRS are given their provident fund amount.

*[English]*

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House and through you of the Government to a strange phenomenon of literally elephantine proportions which is emerging in certain parts of Assam, including my constituency. I am making a reference to what is called the Sixth Addition to the Kaziranga National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. In this Sixth Addition, the territory of the Park has been extended through and across the

River Brahmaputra to the north bank of the River Brahmaputra, which is in my constituency, long stretches along the river have been covered and as a result lakhs of people are being affected by this extension of the Park. There is a case wherein our concern for preservation of wildlife, we are putting human life in jeopardy. These people whose areas have been covered by the Park are being evicted by the Department of Forest of the Government of Assam.

13.00 hrs.

Many of these people were earning their livelihood from fisheries in Brahmaputra river and also by cultivating the charred land. They have been prevented from continuing with these activities as a result they are being deprived of their livelihood. So, this is a dismal case where preservation of wild life is given greater importance than the lives of human beings. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take it up with the Government of Assam and see that eviction process is immediately stopped. It is a fit case to go before the National Human Rights Commission. But before we refer it to the Commission we hope that the Government will take necessary measures to stop eviction and see that the people are not deprived of their livelihood from fisheries etc.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : The Hindustan Steel Ltd. is an important public undertaking unit which undertakes the construction and repair works of important projects of Steel Authority of India (SAIL). Due to malicious policies adopted by the previous Government, this company is on the verge of destruction. With a view to benefit the private companies either no orders or very few orders have been given to this company. The workers of HCL company are facing hunger. In my constituency, modernisation work is going on in Bokaro Steel Plant but even then no work has been awarded to HCL company. Their workers are facing hunger. The SAIL should make payment to them but they are not getting their salaries for the last two months. Shri Basu Deb Acharia ji, you should also support this cause. They are paid a meagre amount on 25th or 28th of every month. No advance is given to them. Medical or LTC Advances have been stopped. They are demanding more work and for that purpose they organised a demonstration but they were lathi charged by Bokaro Steel Plant Authority. I know that the hon. Minister is also feeling perturbed over the plight of HCL. I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister that firstly he should make arrangement to provide adequate work to HCL company and secondly he should arrange to make timely payment to its workers. It is not a very big demand and moreover they are not demanding money without work. Please don't destroy them like previous Government just to benefit some favorite private companies. This matter of bungling of not placing any order with HCL should be inquired into by the CBI...*(Interruptions)*