

12.41 hrs.

**Title:** Regarding revival and modernization of Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO).

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, the Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) is the oldest steel plant of our country. This steel plant was taken over in 1972. Then, it was nationalised in 1977. Since then, 13 proposals had been made by the Steel Authority of India as well as the Government of India. But no action has been taken on the modernisation and revival of this steel plant of West Bengal.

Sir, MECON was interested to prepare a revival package for it and it is understood that they had already submitted the revival proposal with an investment of Rs. 400 crore. This steel plant had been referred to BIFR. BIFR had given the ultimatum, and yesterday was the last day for submission of the proposal by the Government of India.

Sir, we do not know whether this proposal has been submitted or not. If the proposal is not submitted and if BIFR orders for the winding up of this industry, it will have an adverse affect in the entire South Bengal and the livelihood of 3 lakh families will be badly affected

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please conclude now. There are other Members also to make their submissions.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am just concluding.

Sir, it has got all infrastrutural facilities. It has its own coal mines and the best coal is available in its mines. It has its best washeries. It has its iron ore mines where best quality of iron ore is available.

Sir, as regards other steel plants of the country, the Government of India had spent a lot. They had spent thousands of crores of rupees on the modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant, Rourkela Steel Plant and Bhilai Steel Plant. But not even a single paisa has been spent on the modernsiation of this important steel plant of IISCO in West Bengal.

Sir, it is not possible for IISCO to revive its plant with its internal generation unless the Government of India comes forward to implement the proposal submitted by MECON. So, I demand that BIFR should be approached with that proposal so that the IISCO is revived and modernised.

The hon. Minister of Steel is present here. We would like to have his response. Yesterday was the last day for submission of the proposal. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please mention the point and complete it.

**श्री सोमनाथ चटर्जी (बोलपुर)** : प्रधान मंत्री जी, आप जाने से पहले तो इसको आशीर्वाद दे दीजिए। इसको बचाना होगा। प्रधान मंत्री जी से ऊपर कौन है?

**श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी (रायगंज)** : प्रधान मंत्री जी, इसमें राजनीति नहीं है, इसको बचाइये।

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister concerned is present here.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I want to request the hon. Prime Minister. We will be coming to meet you. We have asked for an appointment from you.

This is a very very serious matter. It is one of the most important steel mills. It can be revived easily, if there is your intervention. I will earnestly request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly look into this please. ...(*Interruptions*) We are appealing to you, Mr. Prime Minister. We do not want confrontation, we want your cooperation to revive this unit which is a Central Government public sector unit. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we fully share the concern expressed by him. There is no party angle in this matter and we are all united. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Sir, hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Steel Minister are aware about the condition of the Vizag Steel Plant. I want to link that Plant with this. ...(*Interruptions*)

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी) : अगर कोई यूनिट रिवाइव हो सकती है तो उसके लिए पूरा प्रयास किया जाएगा।

श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी : इस्को के बारे में बोलिये।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : उसी के बारे में बोल रहे हैं।

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Thank you. ...(*Interruptions*)