

Title: Requested the Government to set up a task force to negotiate with those public sector units in West Bengal which are going to be closed and also to plan for the revival of these units.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): MR. Deputy-Speaker, I am thankful to you for having called me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I like to raise this important matter to draw the attention of the Government through the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

The Refugees Rehabilitation Industrial Corporation was formed right after the partition when the refugees started coming in Bengal. It was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. B.C. Roy who formed this industrial unit, called the RIC to protect the refugees. It carried on the activities and the people survived through this unit. It was declared for closure by a Government Notification, followed by the Cycle Corporation of India. More than 30,00 people used to work and now the threat is running in the Durgapur Mining and Machinery Allied Corporation. Sir, the MIMC also is still under this threat and the Hindustan Fertilisers almost died.

So, I like to convey through you, that Bengal, with great difficulty got out of the days of the Naxalite movement, which prevailed, in Bengal from 1967 to 1971.

I am very sorry to inform you that this way, if unit after unit is declared to be closed by this Government, the days of violence are ahead in Bengal. The workers will come on the roads. I had been to Durgapur last month to understand the situation and what I witnessed is horrifying! It is horrifying! The impact would be that more than 1,00,000 people of these units would be affected as they are supported by their family members. It will create a chaotic situation.

Therefore, I appeal through you, to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to convey to the Prime Minister and the concerned Minister to convene a Task Force which can negotiate with this unit and plan for its revival. The Government is collecting money through disinvestment. Why does it not invest it in this unit? Otherwise, in the situation as I explained to you, 20 young men of MIMC, 35 families of RIC and two employees of Hindustan Fertilisers attempted to commit suicide when other workers and family members protected them and somehow saved them.

The situation is full of anarchy and I have explained it to you. I have told Kumari Mamata Banerjee also that the railway line from Asansol to Kolkata may not be at all in operation if Durgapur faces this situation, within two months.

AN HON. MEMBER : Even up to Haldia.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Yes, even up to Haldia.

It is serious. And, therefore, I cannot explain it further. I strongly urge upon the Government through you that the Cabinet must take a very correct view of the situation both in the social and the economic character and that all these basic units are facing disaster. The time is still there. I am only sounding an alarm bell. Things will be beyond control if they are not taken care of by the Government at the earliest. And I wish that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will react. It is not only the people of Bengal but the people all over India that would be affected.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I desire the hon. Minister to respond. I allowed Shri Sunil Khan and Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale to associate with him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, the hon. Minister is reacting to what Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has said.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister speak. He wants to say something.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your matter will come. I will call you later.

...(Interruptions)

(a2/1300/tkd-sb)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI

PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, has raised a point and he wants me to especially communicate it to the hon. Prime Minister. I will definitely communicate it to the hon. Prime Minister. He wants us to invest the money, which is disinvested. He is not allowing me to disinvest anything, so where to invest. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Sir, I would like to say ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)