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Title: Regarding disinvestments of National Aluminium Co. (NALCO).

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): Thank you very much for giving me and Shrimati Hema Gamang an opportunity to speak and I am grateful to the hon. Minister, Shri Arun Shourie for being present here at our request. (Interruptions)

Sir, the decision or the recommendation of the Ministry of Disinvestment to disinvest and privatise NALCO has sent shockwaves all over Orissa. The fact is that it is an undertaking which was started in 1981 at Rs.2400 crores and is now worth Rs.24,000 crore. The expansion of mining and refinery which is in Shrimati Hema Gamang's constituency and the smelter, the captive power plant which are in my constituency and the port facilities in Visakhapatnam have been approved by this Government at Rs. 9000 crore. The undertaking worth Rs. 25,000 crore has given employment to 8000 people directly and about 20,000 people indirectly. That means, about 1.5 lakh people are depending on it. The Government has not taken a decision on this matter.

The Petitions Committee of Parliament headed by hon. Acharia has also presented a Report today at 12 noon in this very House. While the Petitions Committee is seized of the matter, the tearing hurry to sell it off when it is giving a profit of Rs. 650 crore has sent shockwaves in Orissa.

Now, the present Minister of Mines, Kumari Uma Bharati has opposed it. The previous Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, has opposed it and the present Chief Minister of Orissa who was the Minister of Mines in 1998, I am told, had opposed it. I have not seen the files but at least, he has taken a public stand of opposing it. I think this disinvestment process must be stopped immediately. Today also, there was a *dhama*. (Interruptions) We have seen how BALCO was disinvested. Today, all those BALCO workers have been thrown to the dogs. None of the people who have taken it over at a paltry sum, at a chicken feed, have honoured the Agreement when it was disinvested.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, today, all the ex-MPs and ex-Ministers are waiting to call on you. We have staged a *dhama*.

MR. SPEAKER: Some of them have come to my Chamber to meet me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Sir, the Minister is present here. Let him respond on this important matter. It is a very important issue. The Government is selling out everything. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG (KORAPUT): Sir, I may be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will be associated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You are all aware that it is for the Minister to decide whether he wants to reply now or at a later stage by a proper notice.