

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the first shore-based public sector steel plant in the country with a capacity of three million tonnes and equipped with the most modern and sophisticated machinery, the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant has been

*Not Recorded

referred to the BIFR. It was commissioned in the year 1992. About 18,000 workers are employed in the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant.

Sir, Shri A.P.Karne was appointed by the Government of India to submit a report on this. Shri Karne has already submitted the report. It was pending with the Government of India. The turn-around package, as suggested, should be accepted by the Government of India.

Sir, through you, we would like to appeal to the Government of India that the Steel Plant ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): You make a demand.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Yes. We are demanding it.

Sir, at the same time, I would like to submit that another Committee was appointed to report on the functioning of the SAIL. That Committee also has submitted its report. The Government of India has accepted the report of that Committee and have agreed for a package of Rs. 3,000 crore. But the package suggested for the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant has not been approved. Thirty-two persons have lost their lives.

Sir, You were a student of Andhra University and you know that there is a slogan Bishakha Ukku, Andhrula Hakku. Therefore, I would like to request through you, not alone for the State of Andhra Pradesh but in the interest of the country, that this first shore-based, modern and sophisticated Steel Plant ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, Somnath babu would also like to speak on the same subject.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, some reply should come from the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Somnath babu would also like to speak on the same subject.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, it is 'Zero Hour' now and some Ministers also are present in the House...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, kindly appreciate the importance of this matter. The other day we discussed the issue of Salem and the entire House, except the very loyalists on that side, supported the demand for proper running, administration and revival of the Salem Steel Plant, on which another Steel plant, the Alloy Steel Plant depends.

Sir, this is also another very important Steel Plant. It is a Steel plant equipped with modern machinery and about 18,000 workers are working in this Plant ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, this is the first shore-based Steel Plant in the country.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I have now been reminded by Shri Yerrannaidu, the leader of the TDP Parliamentary Party supporting the Government, that...

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI): ...they are doing the right thing.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That you will see later on.

Sir, this is of a kind that is unique in India.

So, this is not a routine matter. Therefore, we have been repeatedly saying that this is an important public sector undertaking and now with the assistance of Shri Khurana you are selling it ...(*Interruptions*) The workers are going on to the streets ...(*Interruptions*) Is, what is anything called 'self-reliance' any longer relevant in this country? Is steel a matter on the *ipse dixit* of the foreign suppliers and we shall depend on them? Are steel factories a matter which can be ignored by our country and we depend only on imports?

This is not a party matter. I requested the other day also that such matters should not be treated as party matters or as matters of debate between the Opposition and the Government. These are national issues. I am very happy that Shri Yerrannaidu has raised one more national issue. Although he is mistaken for the time being in supporting that side, I support him on this issue. It shows that on proper issues, they will get the support of the Opposition which is really trying to save this country from sell-out to the multinational companies.

Sir, there is competition going on as to which Department can please the visitor from abroad who will be coming next week. Apart from beautification of Delhi there is total disinvestment of the public sector industry going on in this country. Even some political parties participating in the NDA Government are strongly opposing this measure. I would request them to see that this country is not sold away to multinationals. This is one plant on which we very strongly support Shri Yerrannaidu's claim. We demand that the Government should immediately respond and see that this one of the finest undertakings is not put to the mercy of the ordinary people who would be there to loot it.

MR. SPEAKER: I allow Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi to speak. He represents this constituency.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM): Sir, there are several steel plants in the country. The Visakhapatnam steel plant is the

latest and the most modern one among them. This was constructed with the most modern technology. There are bound to be difficulties in the initial stages for any plant of this size due to various reasons. It is known that for a plant set up with such huge investment and large capacity, it takes some time for stabilisation. This plant has taken this time. The Ministry of Steel had called for the report of an expert on this plant. Shri Karni had been appointed to go into the issue and submit his report. For Steel Authority of India also an expert committee was constituted. The Government has since accepted the report for SAIL. I demand that the Karni report should also be accepted by the Government. If the report is accepted, money will come in and the plant can run. We do not want the plant to be privatised. This is the most modern steel plant in India. The Government must retain this plant in the public sector. We want early Government action in this matter. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here. We want him to convey this to the Prime Minister and have the expert committee report implemented at the earliest.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): Sir, more than anyone else, you are very much concerned over the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and you know the case in detail. I appeal to you to use your good offices to safeguard the steel plant for which several people died shouting the slogan 'Visakha Ukku, Andhrula Hakku' which in English means 'Visakha's Steel, Right of Andhras'. It is no more 'Andhrula Hakku'. The whole country is concerned over the plant. I, therefore, appeal to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to convey our feelings to the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Where is the Minister of Steel? One after the other steel mills are being closed down but we have no Steel Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: He is in Orissa.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He should come here. He should be called here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, the Minister should come here and make a statement in this regard. This issue was raised by all sections of the House yesterday and the day before yesterday also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is representing the Government.

Sir, I appeal through you to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that he should assure us that our concern will be brought to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister to see that something is done. Let the hon. Minister assure...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri S. Bangarappa.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, day before yesterday also, this issue was raised by all sections of the House. But where is the Minister now? He should come and make a statement here....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, are you asking about the steel plant or the Minister?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (SHIMOGA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I rise to mention again the same matter relating to a public sector undertaking in Karnataka State, namely, Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Limited. Earlier, our State Government had the cent per cent shares in the concerned public sector undertaking. Then thereafter, the Central Government intervened because it was continuously incurring losses. ...*(Interruptions)*â€|When I was the Chief Minister I did a lot....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, are you serious about the steel plant or the Minister?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I am serious about the revival of the plants. I am against the selling out of the steel plants....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri S. Bangarappa. Please allow him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, I was submitting through you to the Government, to Shri Pramod Mahajan...*(Interruptions)*â€|Then, 60 per cent of the total shares used to be held by the Central Government through SAIL.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S. Bangarappa, please conclude now. There are other hon. Members also to speak.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, Steel Authority of India Limited used to hold 60 per cent of the total shares in the Vishveswaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Badrawati, which is in my own parliamentary constituency. Sir, this is a prestigious concern. It was not established after Independence. It is there even since pre-Independence....*(Interruptions)*â€| There were administrators in Visveswaraya....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Then, even 40 per cent of the shares held by the State Government were given to the SAIL...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST): Sir, please allow me also to speak....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay do you want to speak on the same issue?

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Yes, Sir....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, I have not yet finished. What is this?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, I was submitting that even 40 per cent of the shares of the State Government were held by the SAIL....(Interruptions) It is a very famous public sector undertaking. I have gone through the recent policy announced by the Government of India about the disinvestment in all the public sector undertakings. Now, we are at the receiving end. All the workers and the State Government are telling and they have given their complete consent to merge all the shares into the Steel Authority of India. Now, the companies are going to sell all their shares including SAIL. They have invited tenders for the purchase of the shares etc., in this famous concern....(Interruptions) But the people of Karnataka will never accept this....(Interruptions) So, I appeal through you to the concerned hon. Minister to discuss this matter and if necessary, come out with a statement....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you have already raised the point. Please take your seat....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yesterday, this issue was raised by all sections of the House. Not only Vazagâ€¦...(Interruptions)

...(व्यवधान)

श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी : आप पहले स्टडी करके आइए, फिर बात कीजिए।

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, do not allow him. How can he speak? Their leader has already spoken....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : All the steel plants are on sale....(Interruptions)

The Government wants to sell out all these steel plants instead of trying to revive them. We want a categorical statement from the Minister of Steel.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking the hon. Minister to respond.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the hon. Steel Minister should come to the House and clarify because this issue has been raised by all sections of the House.(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, as a whole, the whole of Central public sector units and the steel sector in particular are facing total uncertainty. This is not the case only of the Vizag Steel Plant.

We fully share the views expressed by Shri Yerrannaidu that the Steel Authority of India Limited should take up the modernisation of IISCO and the Durgapur Steel Plant. All of them are facing uncertainty. We, as Members of the Committee on Public Undertakings, find that in the name of strategic partners, many people are coming to take over the Central public sector units which are the assets of our country. You will be surprised to know this. Who are these strategic partners? How much equity are they asking for? Nothing is being made clear.

The Vizag Steel Plant is to be given total protection. It has to be saved. The modernisation of IISCO, Alloy Steel and the total steel sector has to be given priority. This includes the Salem Steel Plant also. The Government should extend support to see that they can be properly revived....(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for this opportunity. I strongly support the views expressed by Shri Yerrannaidu and Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

We are committed to the concept of federalism, as far as our party is concerned. All these years, the policies adopted by the Union Government have been detrimental to the concept of federalism. We should not allow the Union Government to trample upon the domain of the States and the rights of the States. The Legislative Assembly of the State of Tamil Nadu has passed a unanimous Resolution on the Salem Steel Plant. This should be taken into account. Now, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, headed by Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, has also clearly stated its position....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please understand. Today is the last day and we have some important business to transact.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO :Shri Janardhan Reddy has stated that they had got the Vizag Steel Plant after a long struggle and much sacrifice. ...(Interruptions)

The Report of the Karne Committee should be accepted and implemented. The Central Government should take all possible steps to protect and preserve the Vizag Steel Plant. There should be no privatisation of the Salem Steel Plant or the Vizag Steel Plant. ...(Interruptions) In the name of liberalisation, it was only the Congress Party which opened the door for privatisation. ...(Interruptions) I strongly condemn any such move to privatise the Salem Steel Plant or the Vizag Steel Plant.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything that the hon. Minister would like to say?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, the AIADMK should be allowed to voice its views. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is about to reply. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand. The hon. Minister is going to respond. Are you going to hear that or not? Otherwise, I will go to the next subject.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, the AIADMK has given a memorandum. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is giving a reply. If you are not prepared to hear it, I will go to the other subjects.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : The AIADMK should be allowed. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand. You are not allowing the Minister to reply. Is this the way to run the House?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : The Salem Steel Plant is being privatised. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand. You are raising a question but you are not listening to the reply. Is this the practice you want to continue in the House? You are raising the question and you do not want to listen to the reply.

...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please understand that you have raised an important question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I am on my legs. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take yours seats first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All are concerned and the entire House is concerned over this issue. Now, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : We hear that day before yesterday, they have taken a decision to sell the Plant.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are raising an important question. But you not willing to listen to the reply of the Government. What is this? This kind of practice is not good. Please take your seats. Now, the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : The Parliamentary Affairs Minister can talk about Parliamentary matters and not about the Heavy Industries. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, you should not talk whatever you want to, sitting in your seat. First of all, you should know the procedure.

...(Interruptions)

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री प्रमोद महाजन) : यदि आप मेरी बात सुनना नहीं चाहते हैं तो मैं बैठ जाता हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)

श्री मुलायम सिंह यादव (सम्मल) : हम आपकी बात सुनना चाहते हैं।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन: बहुत धन्यवाद। सार्वजनिक उद्योग हिन्दुस्तान की अर्थ नीति का बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा हैं।

श्री बसुदेव आचार्य : हम इस बात को मानते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)

श्री प्रमोद महाजन: दुर्भाग्य से सार्वजनिक उद्योगों में कुछ उद्योग ऐसे हैं जो बीमार हैं...(व्यवधान)

एक माननीय सदस्य: कुछ नहीं अधिकांश बीमार हैं।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन: जैसे अभी वाइजैक स्टील प्लांट के बारे में माननीय सदस्य येरननायडू जी ने कहा कि वह बी.आई.एफ.आर. को रैफर किया गया। उसकी समस्याएं हैं। हम सरकार में दो साल से हैं। आखिर वाइजैक स्टील प्लांट किस के कारण बीमार पड़ा? यदि वह अच्छा स्टील प्लांट था तो किस का पाप है जिसके कारण वह बीमार होकर बी.आई.एफ.आर. में चला गया ...(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete. Let him complete first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete first. What is this? Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

श्री प्रमोद महाजन: मुझे बात पूरी कहने दो।...(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Once upon a time, SAIL was the pride of this country.

अध्यक्ष महोदय: प्रमोद जी, आज आप इतनी जोर से क्यों बोल रहे हैं?

श्री प्रमोद महाजन: मैं इन्हें सुनाने के लिए जोर से बोल रहा हूँ। मैं क्षमा चाहता हूँ। न्वरत्न में सेल(व्यवधान)

श्री बसुदेव आचार्य : वह आपके सम्य हुआ।...(व्यवधान)

श्री शिवराज सिंह: अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह रनिंग कमेंट्री नहीं चलेगी।...(व्यवधान)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, the SAIL was a part of 'Navrathna', unfortunately, due to the sin of somebody, the SAIL also became sick. ...(Interruptions)

श्री बसुदेव आचार्य : यह दो साल में हुआ है। ...(व्यवधान)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Not in two years. It did not happen in two years. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, this is not proper. This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seats. I am appealing to all the hon. Members to take their seats.

...(Interruptions)

श्री प्रमोद महाजन: आप स्ब बोलेंगे तो मैं कैसे बोल पाऊंगा?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

श्री प्रमोद महाजन: आप स्ब बात बोलेंगे, मैं सुन सकता हूँ लेकिन आप मुझसे एक सेन्टेंस नहीं सुनेंगे।

This Government has brought out a package for SAIL to the tune of Rs. 8,000 crore. That shows our commitment to the public sector undertakings in this country. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to reply to a few comments that have been made by the hon. Members. It was suggested that the country is being sold....*(Interruptions)*

अध्यक्ष महोदय, भारत इतना शक्तिशाली देश है कि इसे बेचने की ताकत किसी में नहीं है और इसे कोई बेचने नहीं देगा। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it is not proper to obstruct the Minister when he is replying.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If this is going to be the attitude of the Members during the 'Zero Hour', there would not be any 'Zero Hour'. I am appealing to you. If this is going to be the behaviour during the 'Zero Hour', then there would not be any Zero Hour. It would be very difficult for you. You are not listening to the reply of the Government. First, hear the reply of the Minister and listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

श्री प्रमोद महाजन: अध्यक्ष महोदय, विज्ञाग स्टील प्लांग का महत्व मैं समझ रहा हूँ। और इसीलिये श्री येरननायडू को याद होगा कि कि हमारी सरकार ने विज्ञाग स्टील प्लाट के लिये 1300 करोड़ रुपये के लोन को देव ऑफ किया था और यह कहना कि मैं विज्ञाग स्टील प्लांट के महत्व को नहीं समझ रहा हूँ, उचित नहीं है। आज उन्होने जो मुद्दा विज्ञाग स्टील प्लांट के बारे में बताया, मैं यह माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी और स्टील मंत्री जी की ओर ले जाऊंगा। ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No more submissions on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It has been already replied to.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It has been already replied to.

...(Interruptions)