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Title: Reported move to privatise Cochin Shipyard by the Government of India .

ADV. SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM): Sir, Cochin Shipyard is the most important public sector undertaking in Kerala. There is a history behind the establishment of Cochin Shipyard in Kerala. During the sixties a big agitation was there under the leadership of late Comrade A.K. Gopalan in which almost all political parties participated and the Central Government was forced to establish this undertaking in Kerala. During the period of the last Government, there was a move to privatize the Cochin Shipyard. All the trade unions and all the political parties in Kerala participated in an agitation and at last that Government was forced to withdraw that move.

Now, all of a sudden the Central Government has announced its intention to disinvest the Cochin Shipyard. This Government has no right to do that. This lame duck Government, which is already in the limbo, has no moral right to take such a decision on the eve of the election.

So, I would request the Government to withdraw this move and not to disinvest this profit-making public sector undertaking. This is the sentiment of Kerala. I again and again would request the Government to announce that they have no intention to privatize the Cochin Shipyard. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those hon. Members who want to associate with Shri Suresh Kurup, they may send slips. All of them can be accommodated.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati P. Satheedevi, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Shri N.N. Krishnadas, Shrimat C.S. Sujatha and Shri K. Francis George are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Advocate Shri Suresh Kurup.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT): Sir, we request the hon. Minister to respond. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kirip Chaliha please.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please send the slips and you will be allowed to associate.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already made your point.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already called another Member.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : The hon. Minister may respond whether the Government will reconsider or review this decision to disinvest the Cochin Shipyard. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not responding. I cannot force him to respond.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)* â€

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, you will be allowed to associate. Please send your slips.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)* â€

*Not recorded

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already called Shri Kirip Chaliha.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is not responding.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Another hon. Member is already on his legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already made your point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (GUWAHATI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to one of the most serious allegation of irregularities in the appointment of 3rd and 4th grade employees in the NF Railway in Assam. The allegation is that without following norms and rules, some officers at their own instance, are giving appointment letters. ...(Interruptions) This is improper. This is not proper. I am on my legs and I am saying something. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : The hon. Minister, Shri Vayalar Ravi, has now come to the House. He may please respond to our issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot compel the Minister to respond. If he wants to respond he can respond.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. The other hon. Member is on his legs.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): Sir, I believe, the hon. Members have raised a very important issue. I have seen a report in the media that there is a proposal to make it a company and sell the shares to some private partner or something like that. It is true that as the President of the first Union, which I created in the shipyard, I was very much associated with that institution. When I saw this report, of course, I was quite surprised. It is a profit-making institution. I believe I can use my good offices, whatever I

can, with the Government or the Ministers that they should not resort to such a thing of a private partner. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is responding. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : The UPA Government, in their National Common Programme, had declared on the first day itself that any of the profit-making unit will not be disinvested....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is responding in the same tune. The hon. Minister is responding. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, as the hon. Members have raised the issue and definitely it is a concern of the hon. Members from Kerala and even for the public also, it will be taken up with the Government and with the concerned Ministry and I will try to see that it should not create a problem.
