SHRIP.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, the Hindustan Machine Tools is one of the major public sector undertakings in our country, with six units across the country from Srinagar to Kerala. Its employees are in great distress. Wage revision has been pending for the past nine years. It was last done in 1992 and it was over by 1996. From then on, this has been pending.

There is another very serious issue. That is regarding the VRS. It was granted from their own funds and not from the National Renewal Fund. As far as the major public undertakings are concerned, generally it is granted from the National Renewal Fund. I would submit that because of this, about Rs. 500 crore have become the HMT's debt. Due to that, all units of the HMT, including the one in Kerala, are facing difficulties. They are also becoming the loss making units.

MR. SPEAKER: You request the Government to look into this issue.

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SHRIP.C. THOMAS : The unit in Kerala is actually a profit-making one. I would submit that the Government should immediately respond to these issues, especially the issue of the employees. ...(*Interruptions*) I would submit that the Government should take note of it and take necessary action.