

Title : Delay in setting up of ONGC project in Mangalore, Karnataka.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA (MANGALORE): The Rs. 25,000 crore project of the ONGC proposed to be set up at Mangalore in Karnataka was given a green signal by the Prime Minister's Office about two weeks back. The hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been persistently opposing this mega project even after the State Government signed the MoU with the ONGC and the Canara Chamber of Commerce for the project.

After the intervention of the hon. Prime Minister, the project was approved by the Central Government. This was wholeheartedly welcomed by everyone in the State of Karnataka. Now, it is learnt that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has sent back the file disagreeing with the decision of the Prime Minister's Office. It appeared in the newspapers that the hon. Minister does not want the ONGC to invest so much in Karnataka but wants other companies to pitch in and also does not want the power plant. Not having a power plant means the entire project is of no use. In fact, the power plant complements the rest of the project, including the SEC and the petrochemical complex at Mangalore in the State of Karnataka.

The attitude of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is against the interests of the State of Karnataka and is questioning the propriety of the Prime Minister's Office. The attitude of the hon. Minister in this matter is really against the interests of the State of Karnataka. I fail to understand the queries that are put again even after it has been cleared by the PMO. At the time of entering into the MoU, the officials and the Ministry concerned have already looked into everything and raising of queries by the same Ministry does not arise thereafter. So, I urge the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas not to resist the project for no reason, as already the approval has been given by the Prime Minister's Office. I also urge the hon. Prime Minister to dispose of the files for clearing the project; and a proper direction might be given to implement the project at the earliest so that the project comes to Karnataka and the whole of Karnataka would be benefited out of this project.

I feel that the objections are raised by the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas only to see that this project is not implemented in Karnataka as this project was given by the NDA Government. Apart from that, now it is learnt that he wants to shift over this project from Mangalore to Chennai. This certainly would have an adverse effect on the development of the State of Karnataka. So, I urge the hon. Prime Minister to intervene again and see that the project is brought to Mangalore.