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Title: Need to provide suitable jobs to the legal heirs of the displaced families whose lands have been acquired for the purpose of Salem Steel Plant, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (SALEM): Madam Speaker, I thank you for permitting me to raise the issue of providing job to legal heirs of displaced families whose lands have been acquired for the purpose of setting up of Salem Steel Plant in Tamil Nadu.

Hopes have been dashed and expectations have been belied. That is how I can describe the situation on seeing the faces of legal heirs of displaced families whose lands have been acquired for the purpose of setting up of Salem Steel Plant. Whenever the issue comes up for discussion, the hon. Minister of Steel promises to look into the matter sympathetically, but nothing positive emerges.

Now an opportunity has arisen. Salem Steel Plant is shortly going to recruit semi-skilled personnel. They have short-listed candidates with ITI and Diploma qualifications. They are doing one good thing now. Salem Steel Plant authorities are now imparting training to local candidates and candidates from the displaced families at a local college in Salem to face the competition. I welcome this move.

At the same time, I would request the hon. Minister to give up the concept of 'other things being equal'. Preference should be given to legal heirs of displaced families. The hon. Minister should keep away the concept of 'other things being equal' which was adopted till now. I would request that in the ensuing recruitment to Salem Steel Plant, legal heirs of displaced families be recruited and given appointment over others. This is an opportunity to fulfil the promise given by the Government at the time of acquiring the land.

I hope, and I am sure, the hon. Minister will understand the depth of the issue and direct the Salem Steel Plant authorities to provide suitable jobs to legal heirs of the displaced families in the recruitment drive now underway.