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Title: Need to address the problems of the workers in Hindustan Photo Film Industries.

*SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COMBATORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hindustan Photo Films unit in Ooty, the Otacamund in Tamil Nadu is an important industrial unit in the public sector manufacturing quality photo films and X-Ray films. In 1991, it had 4,500 employees on its roll. Currently, the total number of staff has shrunk to a mere 800. More than 55 per cent of its employees were drawn from the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. It is also to be pointed out that more than 10,000 people were getting job opportunities as indirect beneficiaries due to the functioning of this unit. Due to the globalization policy towed by this Government, this unit has been pushed to attain a sick state. I am afraid that the Union Government is adopting strategies and methods to see that this unit meets with a natural death and gets buried with a funeral by way of sending it to BIFR. In his Budget Speech, the hon. Finance Minister has stated that steps would be taken to rejuvenate this unit roping in the State Government also. Though it is said that Rs. 30 crore was allocated last year for this unit, nothing has been earmarked for 2011-12. Without fund allocation how can reconstruction and rehabilitation be done?

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to allocate adequate funds to see that the Hindustan Photo Films unit is revived at the earliest. The employees there are continuing without any rise in pay for more than 20 years now. I humbly request the Union Government to attend to the problems of the agitated workers who have not at all been heard for long. With this I conclude. Thank you.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil