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Title: Need to allocate coal to small scale industries.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are lakhs of small scale industries, which are house-based industries, in the country in which people are engaged not lakhs but crores. The largest number of employment is in the small scale industries. The Government is also earning foreign exchange worth thousands and thousands of crores from the export of products manufactured in small scale industries.

Today, the small scale industries are facing crisis. Bankura in West Bengal is a district where there is the largest number of rural artisans. That is why, the National Institute of Scientific and Technological Studies had selected Bankura district and set up a field station there two decades ago to help the rural artisans to improve their technology and educate them about how to reduce the fuel cost.

That NISTADS under CSIR was doing commendable job in regard to improvement of technology of rural artisans but unfortunately Sir, that field station under NISTADS was closed in 2001. Today, the problem is particularly towards Brass and Bell metal small scale industries. These industries are not getting coal. Previously, there was a policy. The concern of the Government is for thermal power plant, the Steel plant and big industries. But the need of the small scale industries should also be taken care of. Previously there was a policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Come to the point Acharia Ji. What is your demand?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Small Scale Industries, those who require coal, they used to get required quantity of coal. Earlier, that system was there. That system today does not exist. There is no policy to provide coal. They need small quantity of coal. As a result of this, Sir, a large number of industries are on the verge of closure. There is a village Kenjakura in my constituency where the population is approximately 10,000. This is the only village in our country where you can find largest number of artisans and these artisans particularly from bell metal and brass, they are facing crisis and industries are almost on the verge of closure. I demand that a policy should be evolved so that a Small Scales Industries which employ largest number of people, they do not suffer because of non-availability of coal. The Government of India should evolve a policy so that they can get coal, and industry is not closed and thousands and thousands of the workers who are engaged in Small Scale Industries are not thrown out of the jobs.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Shri Sharad Yadav and

Shri P.L.Punia may be allowed to associate with the matters raised by Shri Basudeb Acharia.