

an>

Title: Reopening of closed Nokia Plant in Sriperumbudur in Tamilnadu.

SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN (SRIPERUMBUDUR): I would like to raise an issue regarding re-opening of the closed Nokia company situated in my Sriperumbudur Parliamentary constituency.

Nokia's handset manufacturing unit in SEZ of Sriperumbudur, had stopped functioning from November 2014, leaving more than 10,000 workers in the lurch, 55% of whom are women. When Microsoft acquired the assets of Nokia, due to some reasons, left out this Plant at Sriperumbudur.

I have been raising this issue repeatedly in this House, The Union Minister of State for Finance also responded to my letter. Our Chief Minister drew the attention of the Prime Minister stating that this Plant was shut down due to retrospective amendments to taxation laws brought by the UPA Govt. in 2012, and also mentioned that M/s Foxconn had come forward to take over and review the Nokia Plant.

That being so, Hon. Prime Minister promised in the Rajya Sabha in February 2015 that the Govt. of India would take steps to review the Plant. The Prime Minister's assurance had given hope to those workers who lost jobs. But for the last nearly 21 months, nothing seems to have been done to re-open the Plant.

I would like to urge upon the Government to take immediate action in the matter and de-freeze the assets of Nokia, so that the Plant could be reopened in Sriperumbudur and that a new lease of life could be given to several thousand workers of Nokia Plant at Chennai.