

**Title:** Requests the Central Government to revive the public sector units to protect the interest of the workers.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): Speaker, Sir, recently the Government has taken a decision to close down eight Central Public Sector Undertakings out of which six units belong to West Bengal. In his Budget speech, the hon. Finance Minister had mentioned that there will be 26 per cent disinvestment in public sector. It is most unfortunate on the part of the Government, when it could not control the price rise, to blame the workers. I will give you the names of these Public Sector Undertakings. They are:

1. Cycle Corporation of India.
2. National Bicycle Corporation of India.

MR. SPEAKER: In the Business Advisory Committee meeting, it was decided to have a discussion on the Public Sector Undertakings.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We can discuss it at that time but please allow me to raise this issue. The other units are:

3. Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineering
4. Weight Bird India
5. Tannery and Footwear Company
6. MAMC (Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited)
7. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, and
8. RIC.

Then the Government is going to announce ten more public sector units. They are NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY, State Trading Corporation, Steel Trading Corporation, NTC, Projects and Equipments Corporation, National Mineral Development Corporation, Paradip Phosphates Limited, MMTC, Mineral Exploration, Sponage Iron India Limited, Hindustan Steel Works Corporation Limited, Metal Scraps Trading Corporation and Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants Limited. In addition to this, there are other industries also. Sir, it is a shocking matter. Even the workers of the Tea Trading Corporation are not getting salaries for the last 17 months.

We welcome the economic liberalisation policy. But it does not mean that the Government can take one-sided decision without consulting the workers. Shri G.V. Ramakrishna, Chairman of the Disinvestment Commission has criticised the Centre for this announcement. This is a very valid point... (Interruptions). Please do not disturb me. You people are also involved... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Please, let her complete.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, Shri Ramakrishna has criticised the disinvestment programme of the public sector units. It has not been referred to the Disinvestment Commission. I had written several letters to the Government. This is the reply of the Prime Minister. We met the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister but nothing has been done so far.

May I request the Government -- the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here -- not to take such type of drastic decisions? You want to build up swedeshi movement and in the name of swedeshi movement, you know, Sir, the multinational companies are coming. We have to welcome them. But we cannot destroy our swedeshi industries.

12.12 hrs (Shri P.M. Sayeed in the Chair)

You should give a morale booster to our public sector also. I request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to take up the matter with the Finance Minister. Please note that in the case of ECL, 71,000 workers are involved. The Government is taking hefty decision to close down all these companies. Do you know your unemployed youth are numbering more than three crores? Now, you are going to unemploy more than ten lakh people in this country.

So, this is a very serious matter. The Government has to announce a policy in this matter. I request the Government not to close down these units. Whatever money you are giving for VRS, if you give that money for the revival of these units, then those units may be revived. So, there is a concrete proposal. Even the banks and the financial institutions have given a proposal. But you are not listening to them. If you do not listen to them then your swedeshi movement will die down. That is why, I request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to intervene in this matter. You protect the interests of the working class. Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is not listening. It is not a matter of joke. Either you have to do something, otherwise we will be compelled to go for agitation.

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श्री मदन लाल खुराना: सभापति जी, इस इशु के बारे में ऑलरेडी १९३ के अंतर्गत डिसकशन करने का तय किया है।

... (व्यवधान)

कुमारी ममता बनर्जी : डिसकशन करने की बात नहीं है, आपका पालिसी डिजीजन क्या है?

श्री मदन लाल खुराना : ममता जी, पूरा डिसकशन होगा और कंसर्नड मिनिस्टर यहीं होंगे।

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Please tell your Finance Minister not to take any hasty decision. Please do not compel us to go for agitation.

श्री मदन लाल खुराना : ममता जी, ऐसी बात नहीं है।

... (व्यवधान)