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Title: Requests for the intervention of government in the problems of thousands of labours in Tamil Nadu Steel Plant at Arakkonam.

SHRIC. GOPAL (ARAKKONAM): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice of Adjournment for the purpose of discussing the problems of thousands of labours in Tamil Nadu Steel Plant at Arakkonam.

Sir, in this regard, a joint committee was constituted with the help of all the trade union leaders including Members from the All India Anna DMK, DMK, CPI, CPI(M) and Congress, to solve the problems of the labours of the steel plants there. They have made a number of representations to the Tamil Nadu Government and also performed agitations with the help of all party people in Arakkonam town. They have also observed bandhs.

But in spite of all these efforts, in spite of several representations made to the Government of Tamil Nadu, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, to the Industry Secretary and also to the Labour Minister of Tamil Nadu, I am sorry to say that nothing has been done. All these efforts have become useless. For the past seven months, due to the labour problems, thousands of labours are starving for want of food.

So, in this regard, I want to draw the kind attention of the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Finance Minister and the Labour Minister to look into the matter.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, in spite of all these efforts, the management of that steel plant in Tamil Nadu filed lay off petition under Application No. 3 of 1997 on 25.9.97 and after that they had withdrawn that. And, second time, the management of the steel plant filed retrenchment application. They had also withdrawn that.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri C. Gopal, please conclude. You know, today we have an important business.

SHRIC. GOPAL : I am concluding within a minute, Sir.

At that time, they also filed lay off application. And, on 8.3.1997, they expelled 748 permanent labours and 300 contract labours without giving proper notice on illegal grounds.

Sir, I may bring it to the notice of the Government that when there arose such a problem in Bokaro Steel Plant, the Central Government intervened and helped the same steel plant by giving Rs. 2,200 crore for modernation.

At this stage, instead of solving the problems of five thousand families which are starving, the hon. Tamil Nadu Government headed by the Chief Minister Shri Karunanidhi has become helpless. They want to close down the steel plants. They do not want to help the poor people.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. You need not say all these things.

SHRIC. GOPAL : I would request for the intervention of the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Minister of Labour and also the hon. Minister of Finance to help financially and also to solve the problems of the poor labourers.

With these words, I conclude.