

Title: Need to take steps for revival of B.O.G.L.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in order to save BOGL, the Union Government should revive it in the greater interest of the country as well as of the workers. The policy of the Government should be changed to restrict the import of flint buttons. The plant was conceived with outdated technology. Subsequent efforts to replace the outdated process by continuous process technology to be procured from Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta also failed. Because of this, BOGL was referred to BIFR. Now BOGL is engaged in manufacturing ophthalmic flint buttons, which constitute 85 per cent of total production of the plant for use in bifocal lens; optical glass (prisms), etc., for defence requirement (used in telescopic tanks); radiation shielding window glass used in reactors; and freight glass to be used by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

BOGL is the only one of its kind in our country and is of national importance, particularly at a moment when our defence preparedness and progress of various projects in optical (prisms) and radiation shielding window glass following India's not signing CTBT.

In post-Pokhran scenario, to counter the effect of sanction imposed by U.S. and its allies, revival of BOGL has become more and more relevant to offset the adverse impact on BARC and defence requirements and to make our country self-reliant in this area by utilising the expertise and capacity of the plant.

In the revival plan of Rs.15 crore prepared by WEBCOM, a reputed consultancy firm, and jointly i.e., management unions and Association operating in this plant submitted to the Ministry of Industry projected that the company can be viable and profitable in three years.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to sanction Rs.15 crore for BOGL.