

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH (Bombay North) : Sir, I would like to make the following submission for inclusion in next week's business :

Working of almost all the corporations and public undertakings under Central Government has gone from bad to worse. Most of them are making huge losses and wasting public money. Expenses of almost all the corporations and public undertakings have gone tremendously up. There is a need to check them.

Ways and means to improve the working of corporations and public undertakings under the Government, therefore, need to be discussed.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, I beg to submit that the following matter of urgent public importance may please be included in the list of business of the House for the next week.

It is a matter of concern that meningitis has already taken epidemic form and is claiming large number of lives in this capital city itself. As it seems, people are penic-stricken without proper warning from the concerned authorities and proper publicity as to what precautions they should take. It is high time that medical authorities realised the seriousness of the disease and the situation prevailing in Delhi and other parts of the country, and undertake suitable measures, both preventive and curative, without further delay.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's business :

Tungabhadra Board—its existence is a must for Rayalaseems

The President of India constituted this Board on 10-3-1955 and the Board has to take charge of and deal with all matters connected with the Tungabhadra Project which are common to both the State of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. It is intended to maintain the common portions of the canals and common distributories, and also generate hydro power and distribute the same, as also attend to the distribution of water between the two States—139

TMS to Karnataka and 73 TMS to Andhra Pradesh.

Karnataka is a State upstream and, therefore, has all the natural advantages while Andhra Pradesh being placed at the tail end, suffers from certain disadvantages.

If the Board is abolished, the interests of Andhra Pradesh will suffer heavily and Andhra Pradesh will be deprived of its rightful share of water. If the Board is abolished, Karnataka can draw more water at the cost of Andhra Pradesh because there will not be any authority to check the quantum of water drawn. Hence, Karnataka is interested in the abolition of the Board.

It is, therefore, requested that the Union Government may reject the plea of Karnataka and continue the Board to serve the just needs of both the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, I have very patiently heard all the submissions that have been made by the hon. Members and I will, of course, point them out to the Business Advisory Committee. Although it is for them to raise the matters, it is for the Business Advisory Committee to decide on the business. I will, however, suggest to the hon. Members for their consideration, whether they like it or they accept it or not, that there are going to be discussions, as they are already aware, on Demands for Grants of various Ministries and if they think it proper, they might be able to raise these matters there. But I shall bring all these to the notice of the Business Advisory Committee.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

[English]

Agricultural and Processed Food Products
Export Development Authority

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES
(SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : Sir, I beg to

move :

"That in pursuance of sub-section (4) (d) of section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of sub-section (4) (d) of section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as member as the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

12 21 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Reduction in the capacity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTHY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Steel and Mines to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :—

"Reported decision of the Union Government to reduce the capacity of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and consequent curtailment of

employment opportunities to the displaced persons and the action taken by the Government in that regard."

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : Sir, The employment opportunities at Visakhapatnam Steel Plant have not been curtailed despite a change in the saleable products mix of the plant.

2. The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Project was sanctioned in 1982 at a capital cost approximately Rs. 3,900 crores. A re-assessment of capital cost of the project in 1985 indicated that as a result of the escalation in prices, cost over-run etc. and an under-estimation of earlier costs, the updated cost of the project would be about Rs. 7,500 crores. It was found that such a high capital cost would affect the economic viability of the project.

3. Recent developments in steel plant construction projects have indicated that there is need for reviewing earlier concepts of steel plant design. In this context, alternatives for implementation of the project at a lesser capital cost and improved viability were studied in detail and the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Project formulated a revised project concept. This revised rationalised project proposal is under Government's consideration.

4. Under the rationalised concept, the hot metal capacity of the plant would remain unchanged at 3.4 million tonnes per annum. There would be a reduction in liquid steel capacity from 3.4 million tonnes to 3 million tonnes which would lead to reduction in saleable steel capacity from 2.98 million tonnes to 2.66 million tonnes per annum. However, pig iron for sale would increase from 0.22 million tonnes to 0.57 million tonnes per annum. Thus the total saleable production of iron and steel from the project would be 3.23 million tonnes compared to earlier anticipated level of 3.20 million tonnes per annum. This change in product mix would enable the project to reduce its capital cost by Rs. 1,500 crores. At the same time, it would meet the steel and pig iron demand for the 8th and 9th Plan periods in a balanced way. It is also expected that the rationalised concept would enable competition of the