

[Smt. Basavarajeswari]

nataka and the rest by the Government of India.

Vishvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited occupies a very important position on industrial map of India. Through its expansion from a small mild steel producing plant, it has not become an alloy and special steel producer.

Vishvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited has been incurring heavy losses and the State Government is not in a position to sustain this loss. It is also not in a position to make investment for its modernisation which is necessary to run it economically. Therefore, Vishvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited urged the Government of India that this project be taken over by the Steel Authority of India. The State Government has agreed to all the conditions put forward by the Government of India in regard to supply of power and reduction of excess workers by voluntary retirement.

I appeal to the Minister that a final decision to take over the project by the Steel Authority of India be taken without further delay.

(iv) Need to set up a bench of the Board Industrial and Financial Reconstruction at Calcutta

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Sir, there was a time when Calcutta was the hub of all major industries in the country viz., Jute, Textiles, Iron and Steel, Coal and a host of other industries including Engineering. It is unfortunate that at present the entire State of West Bengal, particularly its metropolis Calcutta, is in the grip of grave industrial sickness and passing through very bad times. Lakhs of people have been rendered unemployed due to the closure of industries, on account of lock-out, etc.

Government have set up a Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies

(Special Provisions) Act, 1985 to take adequate measures for tackling industrial sickness.

This Board's headquarters is at Bombay. The West Bengal Government have urged the Union Government to locate a Bench of the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction in Calcutta with a view to speed up the hearing and disposal of cases of closed and sick industries referred to the Board. Since the Head Office of the Board is in Bombay, both the management and the trade unions of the sick units find it difficult to undertake the journey frequently for representing their cases during hearings. Therefore, a bench of BIFR at Calcutta has become a necessity. At present about 90 cases of industrial sick units including some cases of Jute Mills and Engineering Industries have been referred to the Board.

I would, therefore, urge the Government through you, Sir, to take early action to set up a Bench of the Board at Calcutta to ensure expeditious disposal of the cases pending with the Board. Even the Industry has made out a case for setting up more benches of the Board.

12.14 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

(v) Need to purchase mustard and Taramira oil seeds in Rajasthan through Government Agencies at remunerative prices.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Prices of Mustard seeds and Tara Mira oil-seeds have gone below the support price fixed for these commodities in Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees of Rajasthan State. Neither Government of Rajasthan nor Government of India have started purchase of these commodities in the Mandis of Rajasthan. Farmers are compelled to