

of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. Raniganj. This information was given this month by the Chairman and Member, Board of Directors, Burn Standard Co. Ltd., during a meeting. It appears the decision shall be approved in the Board's meeting to be held on 29-3-1984. This report is indeed puzzling since the Industry Minister in his letter dated 17-3-1983 had reportedly assured Shri Samar Mukherjee, M.P. that "there is no proposal to close down the refractory and ceramic units of Burn Standard Co. Ltd., at Raniganj". Further it was given to understand that an Expert Committee on public enterprises (Fasal Committee) had proposed merger of Refractory and Ceramic Units of Burn Standard with the Steel Ministry and a final decision is yet to be taken. No where it was proposed to close down these units.

Thus it is very clear that the reported decision to close down the Refractory and Ceramic Units of Burn Standard Co. is arbitrary and will undermine the importance of these units functioning under public sector undertaking.

I urge upon the Minister to reiterate the assurance given by him earlier that these units would not be closed down.

- (vi) Need to expedite the ONGC surveys in Akola and Yeotmal districts for speedy and early industrial development of Vidarbha region

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE (Akola) : Under Rule 377, I make the following statement :

Economic backwardness of Vidarbha region is a fact acknowledged by Government and all concerned. The demand for speedy and early industrial and other development of this region has gathered indisputable momentum.

It has been recently reported in the Press that O.N.G.C. had undertaken surveys in this region in view of this need. Press reports indicate that there

is great potential in the districts of Akola and Yeotmal in this region according to O.N.G.C. surveys.

As one of the representatives of this area, I earnestly request the Minister of Petroleum to expedite this survey and take other consequential steps in this regard, so that new avenues of national wealth and regional growth are opened. Early action will be most appropriate response to people's aspirations. I am confident that Government will intensify efforts in this direction as it is a matter of great public importance.

- (vii) Need to introduce Vayudoot service between Patna and Purnea (Bihar)

श्रीमती माधुरी सिंह (पूणिया) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सरकार का ध्यान पटना और पूणिया के बीच विमान सेवा की आवश्यकता की ओर आकषित करना चाहती हूँ। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं पहले भी सरकार का ध्यान घ्राहृष्ट कर चुकी हूँ। गत समय में जब मैंने नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्री जी से अनुरोध किया था तो उन्होंने पब्लिक मीटिंग में यह आश्वासन दिया था कि शीघ्र ही पूणिया से वायुदूत सेवा प्रारम्भ कर दी जायेगी। वहाँ एक विशाल और उपयोगी एयर फील्ड पहले से ही विद्यमान है। इसकी मरम्मत का कार्य शुरू किया गया था किन्तु अब वह किन्हीं कारणों से रोक दिया गया है।

पूणिया बंगला देश और नेपाल की सीमा पर स्थित है। सामरिक दृष्टि से पूणिया अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। पटना से पूणिया तक रेल सेवा नाम मात्र के लिये है। यात्रियों की असीमित भीड़ रहती है। इस मार्ग पर विमान सेवा अत्यधिक उपयोगी और आर्थिक दृष्टि से लाभदायी सिद्ध होगी। इस विमान सेवा से लोगों की कठिनाई कम होगी और पूणिया के अतिरिक्त समीपवर्ती जिलों में भी जनता इस