

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 (पूर्णा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सरकार का ध्यान पटना और पूर्णिया के बीच विमान सेवा की आवश्यकता की ओर आकषित करना चाहती हूँ। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं पहले भी सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट 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 पूर्णिया 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।

पूर्णिया बंगला देश और नेपाल की सीमा पर स्थित है। सामरिक दृष्टि से पूर्णिया अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। पटना से पूर्णिया तक रेल सेवा नाम मात्र के लिये है। यात्रियों की असुविधा 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 पूर्णिया के अतिरिक्त समीपवर्ती जिलों में भी जनता इस

का स्वागत करेगी। शान्ति और संघर्ष दोनों ही स्थिति में इस विमान सेवा की उपयोगिता असाधारण है। मैं सरकार से इस विषय में शीघ्र कार्यवाही करने के लिए अनुरोध करती हूँ।

(viii) Need to enact legislation by Parliament to abolish the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed a resolution seeking abolition of the Andhra Pradesh Council by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting.

The Government has taken the position that the adoption of the resolution by the Andhra Pradesh Assembly has vested authority in Parliament to pass legislation, if it so likes, but the Government on its part is under no obligation to initiate legislation. (Interruptions)* The argument of the Government is that article 169, has used the expression "Parliament may" and, therefore, it is not mandatory on the part of the Government. (Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It has been approved by the speaker. Let him complete.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The Andhra Pradesh Council was created on the basis of a resolution passed by the Andhra Pradesh Assembly with the centre's initiation of a Bill in Parliament. The Council was created by the will of the people expressed through the Assembly in 1956, and the same people have expressed their will for abolition of it through its Legislative Assembly in 1983, which voted for its abolition by 210 to one.

The Councils of West Bengal and Punjab were also abolished on the basis of the will of the States concerned expressed in the same manner.

I would urge upon the Government to reconsider its decision...

(Interruptions)* and initiate legislation in Parliament for the abolition of the Andhra Pradesh Council.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only the approved statement will go on record and all the side-talk will not go on recorded.

12.30 hrs.

Demands for Grants (General), 1984-85
Ministry of Home Affairs — Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Minister of State for Home Affairs will intervene at 3 P.M. If we complete the discussion today, the Home Minister can reply tomorrow.

Shri Uttam Rathod to continue his speech.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Yesterday I very attentively heard of speech of Mr. Ram Jethmalani and I felt that he presumed that everybody in the Mantralaya and every politician who is in politics in the Maharashtra Government is either a collaborator or an abetter in the case which he mentioned yesterday. I think his presumption is erroneous.

For the first time; I find that in the Budget Speech, the Hon. Finance Minister has said that other backward classes "will also be looked after through different schemes. As you are aware, for the last 35 years, "other backward classes" category was not defined. Two commissions were appointed. The first Commission's report was