

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You read out whatever has been approved, please...

(Interruptions)\*\*

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : This is happening notwithstanding India's economic, diplomatic, cultural, trade and sports boycott of the racist regime and the fact that Indian Passports are not endorsed for travel to South Africa. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government of India should impound the passports of all such persons. This Parliament must also unequivocally reassert our anti-apartheid policies and firmly reject the approaches of those who would like us to take a soft line towards the racist regime of South Africa.

(v) Setting up of proposed electronic digital switching factory at Bangalore.

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA (Bangalore South) : Indian Telephone Industry at Bangalore is one of the most successful public sector industries. The ITI has started its activities with the full cooperation of Government of Karnataka and has now spread to other parts of India. The main item of manufacture at Bangalore Unit of ITI is the Telephone Exchanges and cross bar telephone exchanges. Due to changes in technology, the conventional telephone exchanges are giving way to digital electronic switching equipment. About 5,000 persons engaged in the manufacture of conventional exchanges at Bangalore Complex would be rendered jobless within two years or will be retrenched due to this change in technology.

To overcome the problems of retrenchment of skilled workers, the management of ITI proposes setting up of electronic digital switching factory at a location close to Bangalore so that the staff being rendered surplus at

Bangalore Complex could be redeployed in the new factory. The management of ITI requested the State Government for a suitable piece of land and assurances for supply of water and power. A suitable piece of land was allocated and firm assurances regarding supply of water and power were also given. The French collaborators of the project saw the land and approved the location. The Ministry of Communications recommended the location near Bangalore and this proposal was also approved by the Government of India. However, actual investment has yet to commence.

I appeal to Government to take early steps to set up electronic digital switching factory at Bangalore.

(vi) Need to take early decision to declare Tuticorin Port as the pricing point for fixing cost of petroleum products in southern districts of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N. SOUNDARARAJAN (Sivakasi) : It is reported that the Central Government has been approached for declaring the Tuticorin Port as the pricing point for fixing the cost of petroleum products in the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu, so as to enable the consumers to get them at slightly lower rates. At present, Cochin is the pricing point for the petroleum products being sold in Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts and the consumers in those districts have to bear the transport cost. Coastal movement would enable a larger quantity of petroleum products and bulk movement would also reduce the cost of products. It would also help the port to utilise more the oil jetty, which is not being used now to the full capacity. I request that the Central Government may take an early decision in the matter so that the consumers in the districts mentioned might be benefited.