

other bureaucratic agencies. The legitimate demand of the people should be sanctioned forthwith and steps should be taken to start the work immediately.

(vi) NEED FOR EXPANSION OF SINGARENI LOW TEMPERATURE COAL PLANT AT RAMAKRISHNAPUR IN ADILABAD DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY: (Adilabad): Before I make my Statement under rule 377, I would request the hon. Minister for Energy, who is luckily present in the House at this moment, to pay his kind attention to this matter which pertains to his Ministry.

In the Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad, with a view to produce domestic fuel from the Singareni Coal, extensive Low Temperature Pilot Plant studies have been carried out. The studies proved that smokeless domestic fuel could be economically made from non-coking coals. Subsequently the Fuel Policy Committee suggested to the Government of India examining the feasibility of setting up of L.T.C. Projects in India. Meanwhile, the National Committee on Science and Technology recommended setting up of LTC Plant based on RRL Process in Godavari valley. Accordingly, the RRL, Hyderabad, prepared Project Report for Singareni Collieries Co., Ltd. and submitted to the Planning Commission which considered it favourably. The Public Investment Board and the Government of India finally approved in December 1973 setting up an LTC Plant of 2700 tonnes per day at Ramakrishnapur in Adilabad District of Andhra Pradesh.

With the interest and support of State and Central Governments, for the first phase of the LTC Plant with 900 tons capacity, the foundation stone was laid by the then Chief Minister in 1976. Under the management of Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd., the unit went into trial production in 1976

and by May 1979 all the three carbonisers of the first stage started commercial production. About Rs. 13 crores have been invested in the first phase which is successfully running. As per the project report at the final stage, that is, after investing about Rs. 30 crores more for the addition of 6 more carbonisers etc. apart from making lumpy Coke and Coke Briquettes, the bi-products available for sale will be like Phenols, Ortho and Meta-para cresols xylerols and external utilisation of heavy tar, dephionolised oil and surplus gas for power generation. After expansion this would be affecting foreign exchange saving on fuel and chemicals over Rs. 14 crores per year.

Considering the success of the first phase of the Project and keeping in view all the advantages from this project including saving of about Rs. 14 crores of foreign exchange per annum, I would suggest and request the Government of India to release the balance of required amount for expanding the project to its full capacity and recovering the chemicals which are being lost to the atmosphere at present through the smoke in the process of burning coal.

(vii) NEED TO INCREASE THE GUARENTEED COTTEN PRICE IN MAHARASHTRA

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I raise the following matter under rule 377.

On 1st December, 1981 while replying to a Calling Attention Motion, the then Minister of Commerce assured that he will take into account the increased cost of inputs which are relevant and said that the suggestion of the Maharashtra Government will definitely have to be taken into account. In spite of his specific assurance, the Government has not yet increased the guaranteed cotton price in Maharashtra since last year. This has caused a great discontentment among the cotton growers and it has