

(ii) Need for establishment of a steel plant at Hospet in Bellary, (Karnataka).

SHRI NARSING SURYAWANSHI (Bidar): Sir, a serious discontent has arisen in the minds of the people of Karnataka due to the inordinate delay in the establishment of an integrated steel plant at Hospet, Bellary district. Despite the fact that the hon. Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone in the year 1971 for the establishment of the Vijayanagar Steel Plant, the Ministry of Steel and Mines has ignored the justification of the speedy implementation of the steel plant. The hon. Minister of Steel and Mines had subsequently assured the House the speedy implementation of the said project. But it is unfortunate that no specific steps have been taken so far to set up the plant.

Iron ore and other raw materials are abundant in Karnataka. Man power, water and other infra-structural facilities are readily available in and around Hospet. Thus, Hospet is an ideal place so far as the steel plant is concerned. If the steel plant is set up there, it will go a long way in solving unemployment problem in our State. Thousands of technically qualified graduates will be provided with jobs.

If the establishment of this steel plant is delayed, the people of Karnataka may be very much agitated. The Centre has sanctioned only five crores of rupees to Vijayanagar steel plant, while in contrast it has sanctioned Rs. 185 crores to the Vizag steel plant in Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, I urge on the Government that expeditious steps should be taken for the establishment of the steel plant at Hospet during the Sixth Plan period.

(iii) Need to supply adequate quota of food-grains to hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh.

श्री हरीश रावत (अल्मोड़ा) : उत्तर प्रदेश के आठ पर्वतीय जनपदों में खाद्यान्न का उत्पादन नाम मात्र को होता है। गत 4 वर्षों से लगातार कम वर्षा व कुरमुला नामक कीट के प्रकोप के कारण यहां नाम मात्र को भी फसल नहीं हो रही है। इस दौरान पिछले 4

माह से यहां के सस्ते गल्ले की दुकानों में बिल-कुल भी गेहूं व चावल नहीं है। मैंने इस मामले में उत्तर प्रदेश के अधिकारियों से बातचीत की। उनका कथन है कि केंद्र से गेहूं व चावल का बहुत कम आवंटन होने से यह स्थिति पैदा हुई है।

मेरा नागरिक आपूर्ति मंत्रालय से आग्रह है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में व्याप्त भुखमरी की स्थिति के तत्काल निराकरण हेतु पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों के लिए खाद्यान्न का उपयुक्त कोटा आवंटित करें।

(iv) Modernisation of ESI hospital, Barbil Orissa.

SHRI HARIHAR SOREN* (Keonjhar): Sir, serious discontentment has arisen in the minds of the workers, who depend on the ESI Hospital, Barbil, in Orissa, for their treatment. Barbil is situated in the remote corner of the State of Orissa. About 5,000 workers in that area have been covered under the ESI scheme. The sick members of their families go to Barbil ESI Hospital for their treatment. Air pollution has created great hazards that industrial area and the poor workers fall victim to many diseases. About 300 patients visit that hospital for treatment every day. But it is regrettable that they do not get proper treatment in the absence of adequate number of doctors, prescribed medicines, ambulance van and X-ray machines.

Most of the victims of different diseases are from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They work as daily labourers and are low-paid workers. Their financial status is not sound enough to undergo private treatment, as it involves lot of expenditure. The private hospitals are also conspicuously absent in that area.

Unless immediate steps are taken to appoint more doctors, nurses and other staff, the poor low-paid workers will continue to

*The Original speech was delivered in Oriya.