

ration plant is riddled with leakages because no proper biography of the boilers is taken. There is no deficit in power supply with 20 megawatt gas turbine sanctioned by Centre and SEB Power supply. The Production Chief at a critical juncture was a man without construction experience. Equipments kept in the open got rusted.

In view of the urgent need for urea, fertiliser soda-ash and methanol, I demand a thorough probe into this state of affairs and rapid completion of the Haldia Fertiliser Plant in proper condition.

(vii) **Need to expedite the establishment of nickel extraction plant to Sukinda area in Cuttack (Orissa)**

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : Government of India approved a proposal for establishment of a nickel extraction plant in Sukinda area in the district of Cuttack in Orissa in 1974 involving an investment of Rs. 39.50 crores. The project is yet to be taken up by Government due to certain technical difficulties involving process technology. Sukinda area in the District of Cuttack in Orissa contains the only commercially workable deposits of nickel ore in the country.

As India is a net importer of nickel metal involving sizable foreign exchange, production of nickel from ores available in the country is necessary from all considerations. It is understood that the Ministry of Steel and Mines had approached Government of Canada for assistance in providing an appropriate technology for setting up a Nickel Extraction Unit in Orissa. It is requested that the matter may be expedited as otherwise the cost which has already escalated appreciably, will increase still further. It may be noted that it is already 9 years since Government of India accorded approval to the project. Therefore, I demand that the concerned Ministry should make all possible efforts to expedite the project so that the Project work is started before the end of the Sixth Plan.

15.39 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF PUNJAB

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.C. SETHI) : Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution :

“That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 6th October, 1983 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Punjab.”

Copies of the Report of the Governor and Proclamation have been laid on the Table of the House.

The House is aware of the situation in Punjab which had been causing concern. The atmosphere of public order in Punjab vitiated on account of illegal activities of the extremist, terrorist and secessionist elements in the State. A number of violent incidents have been perpetrated with a view to creating scare amongst the peaceful people, and to vitiate the communal atmosphere in the State.

The Chief Minister of Punjab in his letter dated 6th October 1983 to the Governor, had stated that he had reviewed the unfortunate developments in the State and had come to the conclusion that they had acquired a dimension which was not confined to the State of Punjab but had serious implications for the country as a whole. The Chief Minister felt that the situation called for an intervention of the Central Government for temporary period to meet the requirements of the national security and integrity. In view of the position stated by him, the Chief Minister tendered the resignation of his Council of Ministers and suggested that the Governor may recommend to the President to exercise his powers under Article 356 of the Constitution and take over the administration of the State for a temporary period.

The Governor of Punjab in his letter