

The Ratnagiri project of aluminium plant hailed as a destiny project for the economic uplift of backward Konkan is still not out of woods so far as Government of India is concerned, and has been hanging fire for about 11 years now. This Rs. 80 crore project was finalised as early as 1966 by the Planning Commission which allocated Rs. 135 crores for two aluminium plants—one at Korba in Madhya Pradesh and the other at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra to be constructed by BALCO and to be completed towards the end of the Fifth Plan. The Korba plant is now on stream while the project report is still gathering dust in BALCO office in Delhi regarding the Ratnagiri plant. And this is in spite of Rs. 1.37 crores initially invested for the acquisition of land and preparation of blue prints made by the Central Government. Over all these years, the infrastructure has been built up at a cost of about Rs. 3 crores by the State Government and Ratnagiri has been developed as an all-weather port to facilitate the import of machinery and export of alumina to be produced.

In fact the State Government had proposed to have the foundation stone of the project laid on October 2, 1974. The then Chief Minister of Maharashtra had approached Mrs. Gandhi to lay the foundation stone, but she could not come as she was preoccupied and the foundation stone could not be laid on that day.

The Government is reducing the allocation on this project every year. The report of the Steel Ministry shows that no amount is being allocated this year on this project. This is *prima facie* proof of government's intention to abandon and shelve the project. The project is likely to be shelved immediately after this session is over as no funds are made avail-

able to the project, shattering all the hopes of the people of Konkan who were all the while thinking that their dreams of commencement of industrialisation of this area would be fulfilled.

As the Demands of the Ministry of Steel and Mines are not likely to be debated, I request the hon. Minister of Steel and Mines to make a statement on the project and say that the project will not be shelved.

(iv) STEPS TO ERADICATE CHOLERA FROM NAWADA DISTRICT OF BIHAR

श्री कृष्ण राम (नवादा): बिहार का नवादा जिला हर दृष्टि से अत्यन्त पिछड़ा हुआ जिला है। नया जिला होने के कारण प्रशासनिक एवं अन्य सुविधाओं से यह परिपूर्ण नहीं हो सका है। स्वास्थ्य सम्बन्धी सुविधा से वंचित रहने के ही कारण 24 घंटों में यहां पांच व्यक्ति होजे से मरे हैं और इसके पहले निकट ही मैं पांच और मर चुके हैं। संक्रामक रूप यह रोग धारण कर चुका है। स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय का मैं इस और ध्यान आकृष्ट कर रहा हूँ ताकि शीघ्रता से उक्त रोग को फैलने से रोका जा सके।

(v) REPORTED STRIKE BY TRANSPORT CONTRACTORS AT DAL IRAJHAR MINES (MADHYA PRADESH) AFFECTING SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS TO BHILAI STEEL PLANT

SHRI ARVIND NETAM (Kanker): With your kind permission I am raising an important matter of public importance under Rule 377 and I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Steel and Mines.

The transport contractors at Dallirajhara mines in Madhya Pradesh are on strike since 20th May, 1980 thereby seriously affecting the transportation of raw material such as iron ore meant for Bhilai steel plant. The Bhilai steel plant generally keeps stock of iron ore for 2 to 3 months and if this strike continues further,