

15.35 hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE : REVIVAL OF SICK PUBLIC  
SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS -- CONTD.**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before further discussion is resumed on the Resolution by Shri Sudarsan Raychaudhuri regarding revival of sick public sector undertakings. I would like to mention that 6 hours and 55 minutes have already been taken on this Resolution and the time allotted was 6 hours and 30 minutes. On the previous occasion hon. Minister of Industry, Shri K. Karunakaran intervened in the debate on the Resolution. The Mover of the Resolution, Shri Raychaudhuri will now reply to the debate.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Let us go to the next subject.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South)  
Sir, we have already given notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are requesting you.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, we want to speak something. Why are you not allowing?

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are requesting you.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, if we want to speak something, it is because we are facing this trouble. Why do you not allow five to ten minutes? We will speak only for 10 minutes.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : It is the practice of the House if some Members want to speak on any Resolution, they are allowed to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : The House does not curtail the right of the Members....(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : The ruling party wants to avoid the next Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand. Please take your seats. Shri Raychaudhuri, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mamata Banerjee has made a very valid point. Many requests are before me that this

being a very important subject many Members want to participate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen to me. I have not given my ruling finally. The point is that the practice of the House is that after the intervention of the Minister, then it is only the Mover of the Resolution who can reply. Please understand. The hon. Minister was also raising this question. I cannot agree on further discussion on this matter. The Minister's interventions is over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What I want is Mr. Raychaudhuri to continue and conclude this. For This, we may extent the time of discussion on this resolution at least by 30 minutes, if the House agrees.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, that is enough, we cannot waste our time like this. So, with the consent of the House, I have extended the time for another 30 minutes. Now Mr. Raychaudhuri may reply.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Serampore): At the outset, let me express my gratitude and thanks to those of my hon. colleagues and hon. Minister also who took part in this debate, on this very important Resolution and made some useful comments and gave some important suggestions which only reflect genuine concerns of all of us present in this House over the state of affairs in our public sector units. I would have been happier if the hon. Minister had come forward with some concrete proposals on how to revive the public sector units. One may wax eloquently on the plight of lakhs of workers involved in these sick public sector undertakings whose fate and future is totally bleak and uncertain. But unless one takes some concrete steps, some concrete policy for revitalising these industries and have some sense of gratitude towards these industries who built this modern India, then it is a matter of shame. This Government's policy appears to liquidate public sector in the name of reforms and what is dangerous, Sir, our foreign gurus like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund are not satisfied even with these pace of reforms.

In the latest report of the World Bank they are advising us to move faster on this so-called reforms. I can recall what Mr. Roland Brown, the US Commerce Secretary who came to this country last year said. He suggested that unless we first reform our public sector industries, we will not be able to achieve the goal of

globalisation and liberalisation. Anyway, under the present circumstances I do not want to repeat what I have said earlier in my opening statement. At this stage, I would like to have some clarifications, particularly, in the light of what the hon. Minister had said in his reply on 8th December 1995. The hon. Industry Minister, in his reply on that day, said :

"The interest of public sector workers is of utmost concern to the Government. National Renewal Fund deals with the immediate requirements of labour in sick units arising from the revival or closure of such units. Assistance is provided for schemes, for workers, counselling retraining and redeployment."

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many of the workers have been retrained and redeployed during these years. I want to know this because without such coarse statistics, we cannot simply go on eulogizing this National Renewal Fund.

Sir, then the hon. Minister again stated:

"The revival plans approved by the BIFR in regard to some of the PSUs are not being implemented because the banks and the financial institutions are not willing to provide financial assistance."

What is the real picture? In the BIFR, as all of us know, the Government, the banks, the financial institutions, the workers, the management, all of them are represented in various capacities. After a series of hearings the revival plan is made where the Bench receives approval from all the representatives, including the promoters, that is, the Government of India. After that, how can the banks and the financial institutions refuse to offer money?

Then, the Government also is providing counter guarantee not in all cases, but only in selected cases. Now, the Government is an indivisible whole. One arm of the Government is accepting the revival plan and the other arm, in the form of the banks and the financial institutions, is refusing to offer money. The same Government is not offering counter guarantees to all cases. Moreover, what is the business of the Group of Ministers? It appears that even after the receipt of the revival plan from the BIFR, the Group of Ministers is having a case-to-case study in order to decide whether the money will be provided or not. The banks are also playing the same game. So, I would like to ask the hon. Industry Minister whether these banks and the financial institutions are super-BIFR or we are treating the BIFR as a *charade* and nothing else. The Industry Minister stated that the revival plans approved by the BIFR in regard to some of the PSUs are not being implemented because the banks and the financial institutions are not willing to provide financial assistance.

He further said :

"The hon. Member, Shri Sudarsan Raychaudhuri, while moving the Resolution has said that the Government is not performing its role as promoter for revival of sick PSUs. This assertion is not correct and is emphatically denied."

Then he went on

"The Government have already agreed for the revival of nine PSUs, namely Braithwaite, Bharat Brakes and Valves, Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd., and others with infusion of fresh capital besides write off of past losses, etc."

Sir, what is the real fact. Is the Government of India really performing the role of a promoter? I would give you just one example. Only the other day on 6th March, there was a hearing in BIFR on Bharat Process Mechanical. Here, there was an earlier notice of winding up. But the BIFR is now reconsidering the case and finding out whether a fresh revival plan can be made. The Bench in its hearing asked the promoter -- the Government of India that is such revival scheme can be formulated whether it would offer some money to implement it. The promoter - the Government of India -- neither said, 'yes' nor said, 'no'. It seems that the *moni baba* syndrome has caught the entire Government of India in its web.

Then what is the case of Reyrolle Burn? This is a case where the Government's indecisions has escalated the revival cost from Rs. 4 crore to Rs. 7 crore. After 10 months of indecision, the performing promoter, the Government finally refused to act as a promoter and the unit is facing the fate of receiving winding up notice from the BIFR. The Minister stated that the Government has accepted the revival plan for nine PSUs. But what is the real position? In the cases of Braithwaite and Bharat Brakers, the performance sanctioned schemes of BIFR are not being implemented as per schedule which is likely to effect the prospects of the scheme.

Sir, all of us know the case of NTC. It is a classic case of Government's indecision. The BIFR in its last hearing stated.

"In order to make a worthwhile rehabilitation scheme so as to ensure the long term viability of all the units of NTC, WBABO the waiver of outstanding NTC headquarter Government loans is imperative."

Now this came on November 27, 1995. During the last four to five months what was the Government doing on this? It has been reported that the Government and the trade unions have requested the BIFR to reconsider

this decision. Even the Consultative Committee took an unprecedented step of going to the Bench to move a resolution so that the BIFR may change its earlier decision. But what is the real fact. The accumulated interest Sir, if you are interested to know -- is Rs. 115.58 crore. Since the incorporation of this subsidiary in 1974, the Government of India was charging interest on unsecured loans at the rate of .25 per cent. Suddenly in 1992-93, these are the years when the entire NTC is in the midst of unprecedented crisis -- what did the Government do? It increased the interest rate from .25 per cent to 18 per cent. This an interest burden totalling Rs. 115.58 crore has been accumulate. I must offer thanks to the Government - the then Textile Minister -- that from 1994-95 they have allowed total interest holiday.

But what about the earlier accumulated interest? Now, the Government is not doing what the BIFR has asked the Government to do. It is just passing a resolution asking the BIFR to change its old decision. How can it be possible? Regarding the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, it is awful that the Minister stated :-

"Government have already agreed for the revival of PSUs, namely Braithwaite, Bharat Brakes and Valves and Bharat Ophthalmic Glass."

Sir, I must say that I have the highest regard and sympathy for our hon. Industry Minister. But while he was replying either he was ignorant of the fact or he made some incorrect submission euphemistically. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited has gone for Liquidation on 14.02.96. Why? The liquidation order has been issued, though the Government has been assuring that a revival plan is under consideration. Then, Sir, in the case of Bharat Brakes and Valves, the latest sanction scheme is there. But the Government is not offering money. Under the circumstances, how can we claim that the Government has done whatever is to be done for revitalising the sick PSUs?

Sir, I want to refer to the case of MAMC. Only two or three days earlier, we have seen a Press report that our hon. Industry Minister has written to the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal that since the BIFR has issued a closer notice, the Government is helplessly winding up MAMC. What is the fact? In the last hearing of BIFR on 1.1.95, what did the Bench observe?

"In the light of the submission made in today's hearing and after perusing the record of the case, the Bench noted that the Promoter-Ministry has taken a decision not to induct further funds for the revival of the company and for operating agencies "

All the efforts made by the operating agency to locate an alternate management to take over the company have also not yielded any result. There is, therefore, no proposal for rehabilitation of the Government. So, why do you blame BIFR for no faults from theirs? BIFR made this observation that this Government has taken no decision. Sir, in other cases also, I can refer to that, the Government has not taken the right decision at the right moment or, I am afraid, the Government has taken the right decision at the right moment or, I am afraid, the Government has taken the right decision to liquidate these units.

Sir, then, what about the statutory dues? The Minister, in his reply, observed that for National Renewal Fund etc., assistance is provided for :-

'Workers' compensation payments including VRS and statutory dues in cases of closer or revival.'

But the fact which remains is that workers of Jessop MAMC, Burn Standard National Textile Corporation etc. are not getting their gratuity and P.F., retirement. Then, an attempt is being made to link up the payment of those retirement benefits with revival schemes in BIFR. As you know, this is a gross violation of the statute, that is, Payment of Gratuity Act. You are violating this. There is also chronic non-payment of wages and dues etc., there is irregular payment and non-payment.

Employees of affected units of Burn Standard, National Instruments, Ruirolle Burn, CCIL and NTC are not getting their monthly wages in time. This is the fact. About NTC, I have my direct experience. For months together they are not receiving any sort of wage.

Under the circumstances, I would like to have some clarification on two or three points. It has always been said that the Government would be treating PUCs and private sector or par. But what is funny is that certain industries like Fertiliser or Coal are being referred to BIFR. Now, you know, that pricing in these industries is administered. So, when these units are being referred to BIFR, we are ignoring the fact that the pricing of the products of these units is made not as per commercial profitability. They cannot compete. Their pricing is administered pricing. Because of some social reasons, we also share that logic. But how come that these particular public sector units are being referred to BIFR and they are being asked this question "Why are you not profitable?" Then, what would be the Government's policy on holding on operations? These days, as you know that any unit, when referred to BIFR is a sort of stigma as if it is ostracised in the family of industries. Banks and financial institutions refuse to offer money. They do not offer money. It is a credit on the part of the

public sector undertakings that even in the midst of this crisis, they are getting orders. They had with them orders for about Rs. 4 crores. They have their orders. Jessop have their orders. But to execute such orders, they need some working capital. But they are ostracised. They are stigmatised. Nationalised banks and national financial institutions are not going to offer money to them. So, how about the holding on operation for these? They are not getting bridge finance. Suppose a day on which that particular revival plan is sanctioned and they day on which that particular revival plan starts being implemented, there is wide gap between these two days. During this whole period, when the particular unit has been sanctioned revival plan, even after that, the factory is under a virtual closure. After six months, or eight months, one year or two years, when the chips are down, when the revival plan actually starts operating or implementing, you find the machines are being dilapidated, bushes all around and nothing can be done. Cost has escalated. This is the positions.

One thing more. Have you ever calculated the social cost of replacement of these public sector undertakings? If 'X' public sector which has been producing certain essential items which we require for our economic uplift and economic self-sufficiency, is being closed, we are not offering money for its revatiation. You require its products. But these would be produced by some private sector undertakings. What is the social cost involved?

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When you are liquidating such important Central Public Sector Undertakings, fundamental Public Sector Undertakings, you are not considering, you are not computing the social cost of replacing this institution by some other Private Sector Undertakings. So, these are the problems. Under the circumstances, Sir, through you, I would like to have some concrete clarifications on my concrete suggestions, on my concrete questions. So, this is all at this moment that I want to say. I require concrete reply from the hon. Minister.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Thank you, Shri Sudarshan Raychaudhuri. I think the hon. Minister has already intervened. If any specific point is there, if he wants to clarify he may do so.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : He has raised some points just now. Certain clarifications are required from the Minister.....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) : About the Braithwaite Company, there is a revival package to the extent of Rs. 26.68 crore. Has that revival package been approved? Not a pie has been paid. Therefore, we want clarifications.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sudarsan Raychaudhuri has raised certain points. If the hon. Minister wants to reply, I can permit him.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He should.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All these points were already covered. If the hon. Minister wants to reply, he can.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Serampore) : I raised the points on the basis of his reply. These are all *ex post facto* questions...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is on his legs. Please take your seats.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, last time, I had made our positions very very clear. The Government's intention is..

SHRI BASUBED ACHARIA : You would wind up all these industries?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen to the Minister.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : I had made it very clear. Consequent on that, I had an occasion to convene the trade union leaders' meeting wherein the representatives of the Public Sector Undertakings like the Chairman and the Managing Directors etc. were present. As you all know, this is a problem which has to be carefully looked into. With the cooperation of all, we should try our best as far as possible, I am saying not to close an Undertaking. Unfortunately, as on 31.03.1994, the number of loss-making Public Sector Undertakings was 117. I hope the hon. Member will agree with me that some Public Sector Undertakings from his own State were in a very bad condition, which were about to be liquidated. But still through the Government intervention, we have revived them and to push through.

The hon. Member has mentioned certain Undertakings which have certain problems. Basically, I may say one thing. When the revival scheme was submitted before the BIFR, they accepted the scheme. But unfortunately even though representatives of the banks were present there, when they went back and processed the proposal which they also accepted, unfortunately, this has not been implemented; it is not possible to implement in *toto*. So, we want certain clarifications.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : Why? The banks were represented in the BIFR.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Please hear me. You are asking me: "Why?"...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow the Minister to complete. If you go on asking questions like this, he cannot complete. Please do not interrupt like this.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : You are asking. "Why?" I am repeating that. Some of the representatives who were present in the BIFR, though they agreed, after some time, going through the project, raised certain doubts.

They want certain clarifications.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Do you mean to say that without going through the project they agree? .....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : One at a time please. What is this? What is going on here?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : I admire the candidness of the hon. Minister. But how come the representatives representing a particular bank, the highest body like the BIFR, speak in such a casual manner? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : You please hear me...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Minister speak.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : I admire your candidness. I am sorry for your helplessness. ..(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Raychaudhuri, please take your seat. Please do not interrupt him like this. Please listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : I think, this is not a forum for cross-examining...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : I am telling you certain facts that the BIFR is an organisation with certain quasi-judicial powers. It is not a part of the Government. The BIFR, after going through the project, primarily accepts the report. Then, of course, the scheme is referred to certain agencies including the banks. They asked for certain clarifications. I did not say that they refused it. I am explaining why the delay is taking place. It is not purely because of delay. Inordinate delay. I can place before you a number of undertakings which we have already revived.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : How many?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The extended time is also coming to a close. Please understand that. I think, the hon. Minister has replied to most of the points made.

(Interruptions)..

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : Out of 91 central undertakings, how many have you revived?

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Fourteen undertakings have already been revived.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : How many are there in West Bengal?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This question is not allowed. What kind of a question are you putting? This is a general question about all the PSUs.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Most of the undertakings are from West Bengal.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : How many?

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : You please tell me, which are the undertakings in which we did not implement the scheme.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : you yourself have replied about the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited. Why is it liquidated? Why are you offering them?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may not be satisfied with it.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. This is very unfortunate. Your colleague has moved the Resolution. He has got a right to ask certain questions. Please do not interrupt him like this.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We also have got right to ask questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Unless the Chair allows you, you do not have right.

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Regarding the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, the BIFR has recommended for its closure. But the Government did not agree with it.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : Why?

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : The Government did not agree because the Government is very keen that the workers should be employed and the public sector undertakings should not be closed. That is the reason for it. The BIFR has taken its stand. But we did not agree with Ministers?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What about the group of Ministers?

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : That is all right. That means, you have not agreed with the liquidation notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to listen to this, otherwise, you will not understand. You allow the Minister to complete this. He is reading out the list.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Now two days back, representatives were there. We had a detailed discussions day before yesterday and certain suggestions were made to revive that factory. We have decided to go before the Committee and also for appeal.

I assure you, whatever is possible - humanly possible, I may say - we will revive it at any point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Very good.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I want to have one clarifications ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : I am very sorry, I am not expected to reply in kind...*(Interruptions)*.. All the trade union representatives were there. They agreed with me. All the officers - Chairmen and Managing Directors- were there. We had a detailed discussion and all of us agreed that at any cost we should revive it. There are procedures to be adopted which we will be doing ... *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I want only one clarification....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the hon. Minister has completed.

...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, we have made our position very clear that we will not be a party to close the factory. Last time I put certain conditions. But finally, if nobody is coming forward, even workers are not prepared to go for it, then the only solution left with us is to give sufficient compensation and close it. But that will be our last resort. So, we are trying to run the factory.

Sir, I am glad to say that some of the factories are coming up -- not only coming up but coming up very well. So, I request the workers that they should cooperate. After giving some undertakings, some of the undertakings' production has gone down but I have not taken it seriously. The representatives promised me that they would make it and certainly increase the production.

If you want any information regarding any undertakings...

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : we want all information about all the undertakings.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, one question please ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats. You are not allowed to raise any question now, please. The Minister may complete.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, I may tell you that we have taken action. Action is progressing. It is in different stages. We hope we will be more able to finish it within a short time and I may also assure regarding what the hon. Member was mentioning about arrears and wages...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing else other that what the hon. Minister says is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : About the arrears also, we have given instructions two days before, and the money is made available to be paid. So, do not bother about it. We assure you that we will do the maximum to protect the interests of the workers and also will avoid closure. Whatever is possible, is being done and in future also, stage by stage, we will be doing it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Sir, fortunately, from West Bengal - I am happy to say all the trade union representative came together and sat with us. We had detailed discussion together and all of them agreed that the action by the Government will be satisfactory. They have assured me that their cooperation would be there. So, with their full cooperation, I assure the hon. Members and the House that we will fulfil the promise which we have given to you...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*...

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, one thing, we do not know...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seats?

Hon. Members, we have far exceeded the time.

...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN : Suseelaji, please take your seat. We have to go by the rules. We have far exceeded time allotted for this Motion. We cannot continue now.

...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN : Listen Mr. Raychaudhuri. Without extending further time for this, which the House has not agreed, the House has agreed to extend it by 30 minutes. We have exceeded by 10 minutes, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : you can reply to one question, *i.e.*, whether you are prepared to withdraw in view of the reply. That is all.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : One more request I have to make...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Unless you give a firm assurance that the Government would not wind up any of the public sector undertakings, how can he withdraw? he cannot withdraw.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, okay, you take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He has not given any firm assurance...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : I cannot say about all undertakings. I have suggested a certain method which should be followed. Finally I think except four undertakings, all the others can be revived straightway. Regarding the four ones some technical problems are there. I have told this to the trade union representatives. There were complaints from the trade union representatives that they were not properly heard, their grievances were not discussed by certain officers-not all- and by and large they are accepted. Immediately I instructed officers that whatever be the circumstances, when the trade union representatives want to say something on behalf of the workers, no Managing Director or any other officer should deny it, he should hear them. That instruction is also there. What I may tell you is, I am at your disposal, you can come and tell me whenever you find an occasion....*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think that is already covered.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you have finished....

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the hon. Minister has completed the speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : The only thing I tell the hon. Minister is, we have done our best, we are doing it, further if anything is to be said, please come before us, we will sort it out. My request is, on the assurance given by me, on the basis of the assurance given by the Government, the hon. Member may withdraw Resolution. I assure the Member, whatever his intention is, that is fulfilled. So, please withdraw the Resolution. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is over. The discussion is over now, please.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mamataji, please understand one thing. The time allotted for this Resolution is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seat? No questions. I may inform the hon. mover of the motion that in view of the explanations given by the Minister, if he wants to withdraw the motion, this is the time for him to do so.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Serampore): On some central points. I raised this discussion. I have explained whatever my view was immediately after the Minister's reply as reaction. Now I want some pointed clarifications.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please. Please take your seat. Hon. Members, please understand that the duty of the Chair is not to scold anybody. It is with your cooperation that the Chair runs the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not expect any comments. We have extended the time up to 4.05 p.m. now it is 4.20 p.m.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do not you understand? Without formally extending the time of House...

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not take the freedom like this. Without extending the time of the House we cannot carry on with this. I have allowed only Shri Raychaudhuri to speak and that too not for seeking any further clarifications. The Minister has completed his explanation. If the mover of the motion wants to withdraw it, this is the time for him to do so.

...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seats? I am not allowing it.

SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Finally, he was asking about the guarantee. I may inform him that the Government has also taken a decision to extend counter-guarantee through the State Bank of India to enable the process.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Serampore): The Minister has given a somewhat categorical statement like Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Liquidation order will not be accepted by the Government. But there are other units also like MMC, JESSOP, Bharat Bricks and Valves, NTC, everything.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am putting the Resolution to the vote of the House. Are you withdrawing the Resolution?

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : Sir, the Minister has not come out with any categorical assurance, not to speak of payment of statutory dues or regular payment of wages.

Sir, I know, the convention of the House is that the Private Members are required not to move for Division.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why not?

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : That is a convention. But I am pressing for acceptance of this Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please take your seats. Nobody can run the house like 'his.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Nobody will oppose this Resolution. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand. Will you please take your seat?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : They will also support it. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : Sir, considering your observation that the time is too limited, I do not want to drag the situation. But because of Government's total reluctance and apathy, pathological apathy towards the state of affairs in public sector undertakings, we are hereby walking out.

16.22 hrs.

(SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*)

*At the stage, Shri Sudarsan Raychaudhuri and some other hon. Members left the House.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That this House express its grave concern over the increasing number of sick public sector undertakings under the control of the Central Government and non-payment of dues of workers in those units and urges upon the Government to take steps for the revival of the units and for the payment of dues of their employees in the interest of the country".

*(The motion was negatived)*