

House with full facts about the transfer of Rs. 400 crores by the Chairman of the ONGC without depositing it in the Reserve Bank of India and diverting the funds to the American Express and the Citibank.

#### **Accident in Neyveli Lignite Corporation Project**

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu): In Tamil Nadu, a public sector undertaking, namely, the Neyveli Lignite Corporation is having many problems created by the present management. This corporation is having 8000 engineers, 18000 labourers and more than 15000 contract labourers. This public sector undertaking was making good profits during the previous managements but a loss of several crores rupees has occurred during the present mismanagement. The present Chairman and Managing Director who brought the Fertilizers Corporation of India into losses is not a competent person to manage this large corporation. During the year 1991, due to his incompetence during the rains a loss of Rs. 300 crores was incurred in the NLC due to the drowing of costly machineries.

On 16th July, 1992 there was an all-India strike. The present Chairman did not discuss the matter with the trade union leaders to exempt essential services which is a total mismanagement that never happened right from the inception of the company. The Nitrogen plant in the NLC was closed by anti-social elements and due to this failure there was an accident on 17-6-1992 causing injury to 13 persons. Among them two persons died in the hospital and six persons were seriously injured. Those persons who died were Shri Adaikalam and Shri Ranganathan. Persons who sustained severe injuries are Mangalathinavel, Punniamoorthy, Mahendran, Ramasamy and Ramasamy. Later the management suspended two engineers irrelevantly who were not responsible

for this accident. So all engineers went on strike from 17-6-1992 to 19-6-1992 which caused a total loss of Rs. 50 crores to this corporation. If the Chairman is competent he would have discussed these matters with trade union leaders which would have allowed this essential Nitrogen plant to run and prevented the accident. If he had managed tactfully without suspending the unconnected engineers, three days' strike by engineers could have been avoided and Rs. 60 crores could have been saved. Moreover, he is not responding to the Anna Trade Union and the INTUC leaders who are cooperating with the Government and the management. The Central Government came forward to pay Rs. one lakh to each of the families of the (deceased and Rs. 50,000 to each of those who got severe injuries. It is a very meagre amount and it is not sufficient. The Government should come forward to pay at least Rs. 5 lakhs each to the families of the deceased and at least Rs. 2 lakhs for those who were severely injured in the said accident. The Government should order a judicial review to find out the facts of this accident.

It is also my duty to state in conclusion that Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi is now having an industrial revolution. She is following in the footsteps of Thanthai Periyar, Perarignar Anna and Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar. The B&C Mills and the Standard Motors have been reopened by the Tamil Nadu Government recently which were closed during the DMK Government. By the reopening of these industries, thousands of labourers got employment opportunities and the arrears of their salaries were paid.

In this maiden speech I also wish to thank Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, the General Secretary of my party for having given me nomination to the Rajya Sabha for conveying my views here-