

many people suffer from and die of T.B. and silicosis. There have been repeated demands from the local municipality and the Goa Government to shift this yard from the city to a non-residential area. But the Railway authorities have shown the least concern to this grave problem. Because of their negligence, the pollution problem has been aggravated of late.

I earnestly request the Railway Ministry to give a humanitarian touch to this problem and see that this stacking yard is shifted at the earliest. Pending shifting of the stacking yard, the Railways should remove the huge mounds of iron ore dust and dump it at the harbour itself. Thank you, Madam.

Shortage a Funds for development of
Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

SHRI SATYANARAYANA DRONAMRAJU (Andhra Pradesh); Madam Deputy Chairman, the Visakhapatnam Steel plant is passing through acute shortage of funds. The estimated cost of the project upto the first quarter of 1990-1991 is approximately Rs. 8,000 crores and a total expenditure of Rs. 6,800 crores has been incurred by the Government towards the construction of the plant. At the end of June 1991, another Rs. 1400 crores was required to complete the project by August 1992. The Government has approved an amount of Rs. 750 crores as plan expenditure for the year 1991-92 out of which the budgetary support is indicated to be Rs. 398 crores. The remaining amount of Rs. 350 to Rs. 400 crores is to be given by the financial institutions to cover the balance amount during the years 1991 and 1992. The money position being very tight, mobilisation of the funds from the financial institutions appears to be a formidable task. The tempo of construction is at present has slowed down and the tempo of construction work will be adversely affected if the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is not able to pay the dues to the suppliers and contrac-

tors in time. Under the circumstances, the Government of India may consider increasing the budgetary support to the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant for the year 1991-92 to Rs. 600 crores so that the project work is not affected.

Madam, the working capital of the Visakhapatnam Steel plant at the present level of operation of the Plant is estimated to be around Rs. 200 crores for 1991-92. The banks are not prepared to raise the working capital limit to about Rs. 200 crores in view of the tight money position. The Government of India may pressurise the State Bank of India and its consortium of banks to make available the required working capital by increasing the credit limit to the Visakhapatnam Steel plant to enable it to carry on its operations in the year 1991-92.

Madam, I appeal to the Government through you to release adequate funds for the Visakhapatnam Steel plant. Thank you, Madam.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Madam, I wish to associate myself with the plea made by my colleague, Shri Satyanarayana Dronamraju.

Madam, it is an extremely important matter and I wish to lend my support. Thank you.

Heavy losses to the Oil Sector due to the kidnapping of ONGC Officers

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY(Assam): Madam, I want to raise a very serious matter which has appeared in the different national dailies. It is concerned with the non-release of the 5 officials of the OIL and ONGC. It has affected the morale of the people working there and it has subsequently affected the production of oil in the Eastern sector. The officials and the general public are not happy over the confusion in the bargaining by the Chief Minister