

the Indian manufacturers. I also urge that an independent CBI inquiry be conducted to know how the SBI officials have floated a tender based on well-known IBM specifications to keep all other bidders out. I would also request that the Finance Minister should see to it that fresh bids are invited for the SBI computer requirements so that the specifications are drawn according to their requirements and not according to the features of the IBM machines.

Furthermore, separate bids should be invited for computer hardware systems and software to ensure competitive prices. Thank you, Sir.

Scarcity of Pig-Iron affecting Small-scale Foundry Units in the country

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE (Nominated) : Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, forgiving me this opportunity to speak on an urgent matter regarding the import policy with regard to pig iron by the Government of India.

Sir, the Government had announced in April 1937 its decision to import two to three lakh tonnes of pig iron to meet the requirements. But the Steel Authority of India had imported in that year, that is, 1987, only 63,033 tonnes of pig iron. In 1988-89, SAIL could produce only nine to ten lakh tonnes against the existing requirement of 16 to 18 lakh tonnes. Due to the shortfall in the quantum of pig iron, a request was made to the Government of India for importing pig iron by foundry units for industrial purpose. But, unfortunately, the GOVERNMENT INSTEAD of taking steps to raise the production of pig iron and ensure substantial imports, hiked the price of pig iron from Rs. 2850 to Rs. 4000 per tonne in a span of nine months. For some reasons not known to me, the demand of the foundry units was not considered. *(Time bell rings)* This had adversely affected the functioning of various foundry units and more than 5000 small scale foundries and 3000

dependant engineering units in Ghaziabad alone and many such units in other parts of the country are encountering the same difficulties. Therefore, a serious crisis is going to be precipitated which might lead to the closure of foundries and dependent engineering units, thereby causing great hardships to the workers and the owners as well.

In this connection it deserves mention that out of the committee 8000 metric tonnes for the first quarter of 1989, 1800 metric tonnes only has arrived in Ghaziabad. The foundries have been offered just 4 percent of the total requirement under the time supply scheme. The SAIL is also encountering the same difficulties.

Sir, if such a situation continues the crisis will be precipitated, hampering industrial growth. *(Time bell rings)* This will also develop labour troubles and various other complications which will be difficult to control.

I, therefore, request the Government of India, through you, Sir, to liberalise the import policy on pig iron at the concessional rate to save the foundries and engineering units which are practically on the verge of closure.

Thank you.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I associate myself with this.

Power Shortage in Tamil Nadu due to Closure of Two Units at Kalpakkam

SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, this Special Mention is with regard to complete closure of both the units of Madras Atomic Power Station at Kalpakkam and stoppage of power from Ramagundam which is also another central sector of power generation.