

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.

[Shri Pasumpon Thakiruttinan] This has led to an acute power shortage in Tamil Nadu.

According to the Minister for Energy, the unit II of Madras Atomic Power Station has been out of service since January 1989. Unit I was taken out of grid on April 4 due to internal heavy water leak on the calandrin vault. The total requirement of power per day for Tamil Nadu would be around 56 to 60 million units. Out of this 60 per cent of the power is generated by three thermal power stations and 22 hydel power stations which are controlled by the State Government. Another 40 per cent of the power required by Tamil Nadu was met by Madras Atomic Power Stations, Ramagundam and Neyveli which are under the control of the Government of India. Now all the power generating stations under the control of the State Government are okay and they are producing 60 per cent of the State's requirement, about 40 million units. But the problems lie with the Central sectors. Due to the failure of the Madras Power Station at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu has lost its share of about 6 million units per day. Due to stoppage of power generation from Ramagundam, Tamil Nadu has lost another 6 million units per day. Neyveli, the only Central sector power station is somewhat useful to Tamil Nadu. Therefore, Tamil Nadu is forced to go in for 60 per cent power-cut only due to the failure of the Central power sector. (*Time bell rings*). I would, therefore, like to point out that the power with the Central Government, whether it is political power or electrical power, becomes useless to the public at large.

Sir, it is clear that the present power-cut in Tamil Nadu is because the Power Stations in Kalpakkam, and Ramagundam and most of the time in Neyveli are unable to deliver the promised output. Hope of resuming power generation from Madras Power Station at Kalpakkam

appear bleak since" the peculiar technical snags that developed in the two units are considered insurmountable.

A team of high officials led by Thiru T.V. Antony, the Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, pleaded with the Nuclear Power Corporation authorities to take early steps to bring back on-stream at least one unit of Kalpakkam. But the Nuclear Power Corporation authorities explained the nature of the repairs to be carried out to the two units and gave enough hints that the rectification may take considerably long time. So far as Ramagundam is concerned, Tamil Nadu could not get its share of 6 million units per day for the past six years. The Government of India has not taken any steps to rectify it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA) : Please conclude now.

SHRI T. R. BALU (Tamil Nadu) : It is his maiden speech.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA) : I have checked up. It is not maiden.

SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN : So, the time has come when Tamil Nadu should have its own power stations. It should not and cannot depend on the central sectors. I, therefore, request the Central Government to grant permission to Tamil Nadu to have its own thermal power stations, i.e. Stage III, at Neyveli. It is unfair on the part of the Central Government to refuse such a proposal.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA) : Please try to conclude now.

SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN : Another project to have a thermal power plant at Cuddalore has been hanging fire for want of coal linkage. This should also be cleared forthwith.

(Railway)

Another project to have a thermal power station at Ennore should also be allowed to be commissioned at an early date. The Tamil Nadu Government's desire to have a national gas grid inter-connecting Krishna, Godavari and Cauveri (KGC) basins by a gas pipeline through which gas-based power plants can be installed, should also be made to materialise.

Sir, lastly there is much surplus gas in the western fields. So, a pipeline running southward from Bombay High to the four Southern States is a proposition that should make lot of sense. It would be the quickest, the most appropriate and perhaps the only solution to the country's power crisis in Tamil Nadu as well as in the whole of South. Thank you, Sir.

MESSAGES FROM THE LOK SABHA

I. Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 1989

II. Chandigarh Disturbed Areas (Amendment) Bill, 1989

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir' I have to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:—

I. "In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 1989, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th May, 1989."

II. "In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Chandigarh Disturbed Areas (Amendment) Bill, 1989, as

passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th May, 1989."

Sir, I lay a copy of each of the Bills on the Table.

RAILWAYS BILL, 1989

AND

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 3 BILL, 1989

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA) : Now we take up the Railways Bill, 1989, and the Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1989.

"THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Sir, I beg to move :

That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Railways, as passed the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Railways Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 25th April, 1986. In view of the comprehensive nature of the Bill and its public importance, the Bill was referred to a Joint Committee of both the House for detailed examination. After holding 36 sittings, the Joint Committee presented their report on 21st February, 1989. The Committee have thoroughly examined each and every Clause and made several useful changes as indicated in paras 17 to 38 of the Report. I am indeed grateful to the Members of the Joint Committee for having taken a keen interest in the discussions and for giving useful suggestions. All the changes suggested by the Committee have been accepted by the Government. We have also taken note of some general observations and recommendations made by the Committee. I would like to assure the House that those are receiving full consideration. As the Bill has already been thoroughly scrutinised