

**Demand for early implementation of revival plan for the
Hindustan Photo Films at Ooty in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Hindustan Photo Films, Ooty, is a Central public sector undertaking, established in the year 1967. It is located in the hilly and backward Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu with 750 employees, mostly belonging to the SC, ST, MBC and Backward Classes. They are engaged in the manufacture of medical X-ray films, industrial films and graphic arts films, mostly used in the health and defence sectors.

The technology used is a closely guarded secret, available to only five companies in the world, and any loss of technology would be a national loss, considering that it was established to make the country self-reliant.

The company was referred to BIFR in the year 1995, declared sick during 1996 and recommended for winding up in 2003. In spite of the very low salary, based on the 1987 pay-scale, the employees continued with their work. But this too has been stopped since March, 2013.

The revival proposal submitted to the Government of India has been considered and recommended to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) and the Committee of Secretaries (COS). In spite of the recommendations, the revival plans are delayed due to the non-approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

The employees' demand is for early implementation of the Rs.3.2 crores revival plan along with Rs.70 crores for immediate running of the unit and also for revising the salaries to the 1997 pay-scale.

A delegation representing the employees of HPF met the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on the 30th July, 2013 and submitted a memorandum talking about their grievances.

On behalf of the workers and their families, I would urge the Government of India to immediately implement the revival plan and release their salaries.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Wansuk Syiem. You may lay your Special Mention on the Table.

Demand to give special package for development of tourism in Meghalaya

SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM (Meghalaya): Sir, I rise to reiterate the long-standing demand of my State, Meghalaya, for its rightful share of the Centre's

special package for the Northeast comprising ten per cent of the Plan funds of all the Ministries for its tourism infrastructure development projects.

The verdant valleys, ranges, forests, biodiversity, rivers and lakes of Meghalaya with its salubrious climate all through the year provide a perfect retreat for the tourists. The Government of Meghalaya had drawn out a blueprint for its tourism infrastructure development with a product portfolio embracing cultural, natural/eco, adventure, wildlife and forest, leisure and wellness tourism.

The Garos, Khasis and Jaintias, three major ethnic groups of Meghalaya, have unique traditions in their occupation, manufacturing, food/drink, dress and costumes including ethnic jewellery traditional martial art/folklore and sports and games to lend a colourful and kaleidoscopic panorama for the tourists.

In support of Meghalaya's claim for Central assistance for its tourism development projects, I rely on two independent evaluations done by the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Transport, Tourism and Culture, and the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, INTACH. The 172nd Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee presented in Parliament on 17th August, 2011 and the findings of the study conducted by INTACH are with the Centre for quite some time. These reports/studies known for their detachment and objectivity endorse the urgent need for adequate support from the Centre for Meghalaya's tourism development projects. I urge the Centre to consider, even belatedly, the claim of Meghalaya for Central assistance for its tourism development projects.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet at 11.00 A.M. tomorrow, the 20th of August, 2013.

The House then adjourned at seventeen minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 20th August, 2013.