

[Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy]

been three years since the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, but the promise has not yet been fulfilled.

YSR Kadapa, like its neighbouring districts of Anantapur and Kurnool, is rich in iron-ore deposits and thereby an ideal location for setting up of a steel plant. Even the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant, which procures iron-ore from places far-away, made profits till three years ago and is conferred with the 'Navratna' status.

Establishing a steel plant in the YSR district will financially be feasible and profitable when the Government provides necessary tax incentives and subsidies. The steel plant will generate jobs in the Rayalaseema region which is industrially backward with high unemployment rate and socio-economic disadvantages. Organisations like the Steel Plant Saadhana Samithi and Kadapa Ukku Porata Committee have been agitating relentlessly for the cause.

Hence, I urge the hon. Minister of Steel to pursue the State Government and the Geological Survey of India to submit the report expeditiously and hasten setting up of integrated steel plant in the YSR Kadapa District to fulfill the much-awaited promise to the people of Rayalaseema region. Thank you.

**Demand to address the problems being faced by Sweet industry,
particularly in West Bengal after imposition of GST on it**

SHRI MANISH GUPTA (West Bengal): The sweetmeat industry, across the country, is in a state of turmoil after the introduction of the GST. I wish to highlight the problems being faced in Bengal. The problems are not just limited to sweetshop vendors and consumers, but also the artisans who are directly dependent on this industry.

The sweetmeat industry in Bengal is an unorganized cottage industry with over one lakh shops and more than fifty lakh people employed therein. Meals are not complete without Mishtidoi, Sandesh and the world-famous Rosogolla. They do not have any infrastructure to implement GST. Introducing computerization for implementing GST in this unorganized industry is onerous, as most of the people do not have formal education. Forcing them to adapt at such a short notice is like snatching away their only means of sustenance.

Previously, there was no VAT on sweets. Also, the rates imposed on the various sweetmeats are baffling, every item is under a different tax slab, which is further complicating matters.

Plain barfi – 5 per cent; dry fruit barfi – 12 per cent; chocolate barfi – 28 per cent; rosogolla and plain sandesh – 5 per cent; mishti doi – 12 per cent; chocolate sandesh – 28 per cent.

Importantly, lassi and chaachh have been exempted from GST, but sweets from Bengal have not been.

I would urge upon the Government to kindly look into this urgent matter and ensure that such a huge body of citizens are not deprived of their livelihoods due to uninformed decisions taken by the GST Council. I request that the 5 per cent GST imposed be dispensed with.

**Demand to take necessary steps to provide basic maternity facilities
in rural areas, particularly in Bihar**

श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर (बिहार): महोदय, स्वास्थ्य एक ऐसा क्षेत्र है जिसमें सतत सुधार की गुंजाइश रहती है। हमारे देश में ग्रामीण इलाके में बुनियादी स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं का नितान्त अभाव है। राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के अधीन पूरे देश में ग्रामीण इलाके में प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र बनाए गए, लेकिन उन केंद्रों पर डाक्टरों तथा जीवन रक्षक दवाइयों की समुचित व्यवस्था अभी तक नहीं हो पाई है। इस बुनियादी जरूरत की अनदेखी की वजह से बिहार के ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में बालिकाओं की एक बड़ी आबादी कुपोषण का शिकार है। बड़ी संख्या में युवतियां गर्भावस्था तथा प्रसव के दौरान काल का ग्रास बन जाती हैं। अभी भी लगभग 2.5 करोड़ बच्चियों की शादी कम उम्र में ही हो जाती है और तीन में से केवल एक ही बालिका गर्भ निरोधक उपकरणों/दवाओं का उपयोग कर पाती है। लगभग तीस लाख महिलाएं प्रतिवर्ष गर्भवती होती हैं, जिनमें से लगभग 6,500 महिलाएं बुनियादी प्रसव सुविधाओं के अभाव में दम तोड़ देती हैं।

महोदय, सबसे ज्यादा असुविधा उन वर्गों की बच्चियों के लिए है जो अत्यंत गरीब हैं, वे दवाई का खर्च नहीं उठा सकतीं। संस्थागत प्रसव का आंकड़ा पिछले पांच वर्षों से स्थिर है। इसका मतलब यह है कि जो सुविधा गरीब परिवारों तक पहुंचनी चाहिए थी, वह वहां तक नहीं पहुंची।

महोदय, मैं इस विशेष उल्लेख के माध्यम से सरकार से यह मांग करता हूं कि वह इस दयनीय स्थिति की ओर ध्यान दे तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों पर विशेष ध्यान देकर संस्थागत प्रसव सुविधा को बेहतर बनाने के साथ-साथ राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के लक्ष्यों को सार्थक बनाने का प्रयास करें।

**Demand to take immediate steps to ensure restricted supply of LNG and
closure of illegal industries in Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ), Agra to
protect Taj Mahal from air pollution**

SHRI LA. GANESAN (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ), Agra, is a burning issue for the nation as it is causing loss in three areas — (a) to the Taj Mahal, (b) to the Exchequer of the Government; and (c) contamination of air in the environment. The reasons are given below:— (i) TTZ was formed in 1996