

Strike by employees of the Kochi Refinery of BPCL

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kochi Refinery is located at Ambalamugal near Kochi in Kerala and is one of the two main Refineries of BPCL, presently having a crude oil refining capacity of 15.5 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA). The product portfolio of the Kochi Refinery today includes petrochemical feed stocks and specialty products in addition to its range of quality fuels. At present, this refinery, along with other refineries of BPCL, is going through a tough time due to the decision of the Union Cabinet to privatise BPCL. As far as Kochi Refinery is concerned, it is one of the biggest industries in the State of Kerala and it is operating on profit since beginning. The Government of Kerala has taken the land and given to Refinery for setting up a major industry in Kerala. They have invested about ₹ 20,000 crores for the expansion, which was completed within a record time. And, another project is under pipeline. The Government of Kerala is acquiring 500 acres of land for further expansion. At this juncture, the privatization has jeopardized all the expansion works. The Government of Kerala and the Kerala Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution and I would request the Government of India to refrain from the privatization move and hand over that unit, if the Government is willing to keep it in the public sector, to the Kerala Government.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD : Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH : Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Binoy Viswam, I would have allowed your subject. But, today morning, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation workers called off the strike. Some ending has come about. Let us now not unnecessarily create problems because you know the story. So, please bear with me.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Thank you, Sir.
