

महोदय, मैं आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूँगी कि ओडिशा की संबलपुरी साड़ी को काफी बढ़ावा मिला है। विश्व के विभिन्न देशों में संबलपुरी साड़ी लोगों की पसंद बन चुकी है। ऐसे ही संथाली साड़ी को भी प्रोत्साहन की जरूरत है।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से वस्त्र मंत्रालय से अनुरोध करना चाहूँगी कि संथाली और झाल साड़ी के संरक्षण और विकास के लिए कदम उठाए जाएँ, धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour mention raised by the hon. Member, Shrimati Mamata Mohanta: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa (Assam), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra) and Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu).

The next speaker is Shri Digvijaya Singh; demand to implement the recommendations of Koshiyari Committee in respect of Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995; not present. The next speaker is Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao; need to implement urgent measures for revival of RINL, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

Need to implement urgent measures for revival of RINL, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO (Uttar Pradesh): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. My Zero Hour submission is regarding 'need to support and strengthen RINL, popularly known as Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

Sir, the steel plant was established in eighties after years of agitation and sacrifice of lives of 32 people. The plant came into production in the year 1989. There has been a demand for preferential allotment of captive iron ore mines. Successive Governments have not provided these mines and as a result, the cost of production of RINL is significantly higher compared to the same in other plants. Sir, for ten years, Congress came to power in Delhi in 2004 only because they won 34 out of 42 seats from Andhra Pradesh. But, despite that, they also had their Government in Andhra Pradesh from 2004 to 2014. But there was a complete neglect. There was no allotment of captive iron ore mines in favour of RINL. On the contrary, they invested over Rs. 2,000 crores in a Forged Wheel Plant in Raebareli, several thousand kilometres away, only to placate their Congress President and also the then and present MP from the same constituency. They also invested at a time when RINL had cash reserves. They invested over Rs. 14,500 crores for expansion which actually put heavy interest burden on RINL.

So, the story of RINL, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, is a story of complete neglect and injustice. In January 2021, the Government had taken a decision for strategic disinvestment but I am glad that this decision currently is not progressing; it is stalled. Sir, since 2022, the third blast furnace has not been working. The third blast furnace is not functional due to several issues and problems. So, I call upon the Government in this regard. Also, the salaries of the executives, pensioners and contract workers are delayed because of financial difficulties. Suppliers are also not being paid. Executive promotions, particularly even the time-bound promotions for executives, have stopped. Therefore, I call upon the Government to take urgent measures for revival. In 2000, when RINL was referred to BIFR, the Atal Bihar Vajpayeeji's Government bailed it out by giving Rs.1,333 crores. I call upon the present Government to take urgent measures for revival, to provide promotions and to take pro-employee measures. Thank you.

MR.DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Zero Hour matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao: Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla(Tamil Nadu).

Issue of digitisation of data on India Digital Ecosystem on Agriculture (IDEA)

SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE (Bihar): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me time. Sir, the Government is proceeding blindly with digitalisation in agriculture without first putting a legal policy framework in place. Although a draft of the policy paper, India Digital Ecosystem on Agriculture, IDEA, was shared in 2021 inviting feedback, there has been no final draft since. There are also serious concerns if the policy, whenever finalised, will be farmer-friendly because the Committee working on this policy did not have a single farmer representative. This policy vacuum has not stopped the Government from signing one-year MoUs in 2021 with 11 companies to develop proofs of concept of AgriStack. Two years later, there have been no updates about the successes and outcomes of these MoUs and how the Government will proceed in this regard. In the interest of transparency and accountability, the Government needs to share details about the work done under each MoU. As the Government actively promotes digitalisation in agriculture, there are questions if this will benefit farmers or further lead to their exploitation. E-