

ore at a higher cost. Instead of opting for privatization, the Government must take efforts to supply required raw material to the Vizag Steel Plant including supply of Iron ore through the National Mineral Development Corporation. The people are agitated by the decision of the Government to disinvest the Vizag steel Plant. Workers of the Vizag Steel Plant and people across various fields are agitating against the Centre's decision on the Vizag Steel Plant. A *padayatra* was also organised in this regard. Considering the sentiments expressed by the people, I urge the Government to withdraw its decision to disinvest the Vizag Steel Plant.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI GHANSHYAM TIWARI): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shri Anil Kumar Yadav: Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri Subhas Chandra Bose Pilli (Andhra Pradesh), Shri Ashok Singh (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Meda Raghunadha Reddy (Andhra Pradesh) and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).

#### **Demadn to address the problems of water scarcity in Bengaluru**

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA (Karnataka): Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to speak while sitting, and express my concerns about the drinking water problem in Bengaluru city. Last week, as the House was not actually functioning, I was unable to mention this issue. Now, today, you are kind enough to give me the permission to express what I wanted to raise last week.

Bengaluru city's population is 145 lakhs. Today 30 TMC of water is required to see to it that people get sufficient drinking water. Today, the issue is so worse. Once Bengaluru city is called, as my friend sitting here knows, the City of Lakes. So many lakes were there. Now, all have been destroyed. I don't want to blame anybody. I appointed a committee when I was Minister. Lakshman Rao, son of N. Madhav Rao Dewan, gave a special Report on how to protect all the lakes. But everything is gone. With folded hands, I would like to appeal to the Government of India for this. I have brought it to the notice of the Union Minister and the hon. Prime Minister how Karnataka is suffering today. Unscrupulous private operators, who once charged Rs.1200 per load of water, are now charging Rs.3000 per lorry. If four or five people are there, in a family, they have to spend Rs.20,000 per month. Where do they bring it from? Unscrupulous people are today harassing the normal citizens for drinking

water. They are suffering so badly. I have prayed to the hon. Prime Minister and the Union Minister with all the representations. There is no politics here. I only appeal to the Union Government. Mekedatu dam is one of the problems which has been pending for long. The State Government is recommending it; there is no politics in it. All successive Governments are trying to construct Mekedatu. The advocate who pleaded for Tamil Nadu also said, 'You can construct a dam higher up.' But, unfortunately, till today, nothing has happened. With folded hands, I pray, through you, to the Union Government to see that the problem is solved as the people are suffering for want of drinking water. Unscrupulous people are supplying water by bringing it from various areas. They are selling it at the rate of Rs.3,000 per load. If there are 4 members or 5 members in a family, they have to spend Rs.20,000. How will they live? There are retired people and pensioners; all these people are suffering. With folded hands, I beg of you; the Union Government is trying to solve this problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not blaming anybody. I am only praying for the drinking water.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI GHANSHYAM TIWARI): Shri Sanjeev Arora ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN (Tamilnadu): Sir, he has done it several times...*(Interruptions)*...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री घनश्याम तिवाड़ी) :** आप कृपया बैठ जाइए। ..*(व्यवधान)*... The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by Shri H.D. Devegowda:- Dr. John Brittas (Kerala) and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).

Now, Shri Sanjeev Arora - not present. Dr. Fauzia Khan.

### **Demand for optimizing Special Coaches for Targeted Groups in Indian Railways**

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, the Indian Railways routinely introduces special coaches and trains, both on a permanent and temporary basis, to accommodate surging travel demands during peak periods such as festivals, pilgrimages, vacations, and examinations. In 2023, the Indian Railways operated 527