

Regarding revival of match factory in Dhubri, Assam-laid

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE (BARPETA): I wish to draw the attention of the House concerning Match Factory in Dhubri, Assam which has remained inactive since 1997. The factory, established in 1925 was once a thriving industrial unit, but was sold by ITC Limited to another company for Rs 74.25 crore, much below the estimated worth of Rs 200 crore plus. The factory was once a significant source of employment and pride for the region. The sale has triggered protests among the local community and former workers have been demanding to preserve the heritage and revival the factory for years. Allegations have surfaced that the deal was undervalued and done clandestinely to evade government revenue with the actual amount paid by the buyer being much higher.

The people of Dhubri are deeply concerned about the use of the land and have appealed to the buyer to consider setting up another industry. The government should intervene and explore alternative proposals for the revival of the match factory which will generate employment opportunity and contribute to the socio-economic development of the region. I urge upon the Hon?ble Minister of Labour and Employment to take cognizance of the matter and initiate an investigation to address the matter.

