

Title: Requested the Government to revive the Hindustan Photo Films Co. Ltd. (HPF) by asserting financial support to the company.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Union Government a very serious matter. The Hindustan Photo Films Company Ltd., a public sector undertaking and a very unique project was inaugurated by the late lamented Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru at Ooty in Nilgiris District. Now the BIFR has issued a show-cause notice for winding up or closure of the Company. HPF is a central public sector undertaking incorporated during the 1960s. It is manufacturing all kinds of photo-synthesised products for education, health-care, defence, entertainment, mass-communication and amateur photography.

The asset base of the company was Rs.589 crore as on 31st March, 2000. During 1991 the man-power of the Company was 4100. Now the man-power is 2600 only. It has become a sick unit mainly due to the liberalisation of the Indian economy and in no way the workers are responsible for the sickness of the Company. The turnover of the Company before liberalisation was about Rs.240 crore and after liberalisation it has come down to Rs.35 crore per annum approximately.

HPF is located in a district called Nilgiris which is industrially totally backward and consists of mostly people belonging to the backward classes, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Now it has become a major crisis in the district. All hon. Members of Parliament, cutting across the party-line, made a representation to the Prime Minister and he gave us a sympathetic hearing. Then we met the Industry Minister. Shri Manohar Joshi had also visited the spot.

My request is that since already we have given a representation to the Government, the Government should not take steps to close down the industry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please come to the operative part. What do you want from the Central Government?

SHRI VAIKO : In order to protect the industry there should be a revival plan, pending finalisation of restructuring by the Government. Therefore, HPF has to be provided with an immediate one-time financial support - that is our demand - of Rs.145 crore as a single payment. This is the first step to be taken. Along with providing this working capital of Rs.145 crore, all other required steps have to be taken. Therefore, the industry should not be closed down. This is the major concern of the people all over Tamil Nadu and not just a problem agitating the minds of the labourers of the district. The Government of Tamil Nadu also is very much concerned. Therefore, the Central Government should take steps not to wind up the unit.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): This is the result of your Government's liberalisation policy.

SHRI VAIKO : This is the policy started by the Congress Government. It is because of their liberalisation policy that this unit has become sick. I oppose this kind of liberalisation.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Always senior Members are behaving like junior Members....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO : You have not supported us, but you are speaking only politics.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : This is the outcome of your Government's policy.

SHRI VAIKO : First of all you support this demand.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is this? You have had your chance. There are other Members also waiting for their chance.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : This is why I say that I am the most disciplined Member of this House!

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (PONDICHERRY): We congratulate you on that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not touch that aspect. You can touch your subject.