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Title: Regarding the Government's decision to close down the NG-based explosive units.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Sir, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance during 'Zero Hour' today.

The Government's decision to phase out and finally close down NG-based explosive units is leading to large scale unemployment, scarcity of explosives and monopolisation of explosive industry by other class-II based multinational explosive units.

The whole thing started with an incident of detection of use of NG-based explosives by terrorists and extremists in a terrorist attack. This led to the constitution of a committee to go into the desirability of continuing with the manufacture of NG-based explosives and other related matters. The committee, being headed by the Chairman and former Managing Director of a multinational company manufacturing slurry based explosives, was inevitably biased against the NG-based explosives. The decision was taken on the basis of the said committee's report which inevitably recommended phasing out and closure of the other class of explosive units, namely, NG-based units, leaving the field open for monopolisation by multinational slurry and emulsion based explosive manufacturers.

It is a very serious matter and calls for review by a high-level independent experts' committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

13.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.