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Title: Need to enhance the retirement age of employees of SAIL Refractory Company Limited, Salem in Tamil Nadu from 58 to 60 years.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (SALEM): Salem Refractory Unit of Burn Standard Co. Limited was taken over by SAIL on 16.12.2011 and all employees have got their wage revision also. The refractory manufacturing operation is entirely depending on manual and experienced workforce. The plant is continuously making profit. The employees are extending full co-operation to the management to achieve the target. Employees have never resorted to strike or untoward incidents for the last so many years. SRCL (SAIL Refractory Co. Ltd) is 100 per cent subsidiary of SAIL. Since taking over of Salem Refractory unit of Burn Standard Co. Ltd by SAIL, the only demand of the employees is in respect of enhancement of retirement age from 58 to 60 on par with Salem Steel Plant (SSP). It is a genuine demand. But the management is citing some liability to the State Government to be beared by it. The liability and enhancement of retirement age are totally different issues and liquidation of liability would be slightly lengthy procedure. Denying the employees their genuine demand is unjustified.

If the Unit loses the services of those who are experts in manual operation, the work will suffer. By enhancing the age of retirement, the organization will be in a better position to further utilize the services of its workforce. I request the Authority concerned to consider the proposal for enhancement of retirement age from 58 to 60 years. I hope that the Hon'ble Minister of Steel will consider my fervent appeal and get it done at the earliest.