

India in the year 1986 putting the workers idle and plant into uncertainty.

The Government engaged two foreign consultants, namely, Toya Engineering of Japan and Uhde of West Germany to study the matter of rehabilitation of upstream and downstream of the plant respectively. The reports submitted by them hinted about an investment of Rs. 500 crores for the rehabilitation of the plant to make it commercially viable. The matter has been pending before the Government for its consideration and investment decision.

If adequate fund is not allotted by March 1990, HFC will have to close down the factory. So, I urge upon the Government that full fledged rehabilitation programme of the Plant should be executed with immediate effect in accordance with report submitted by Toya Engineering and Uhde, allotment of funds should be made immediately for execution of at least one phase of downstream plant and ban on operational activities should be lifted.

(vi) Need to settle the border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra

SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK (Bombay South Central): Sir, the border issue between Karnataka and Maharashtra regarding Belgaum-Karwar issue requires immediate solution before agitation flares up. This burning issue has been neglected during the last 31 years.

[*Translation*]

(vii) Need to reinstate the dismissed employees of D.T.C.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, nearly 3600 employees of D.T.C. were dismissed during March, 1988 strike. More than one dozen of them committed suicide out of frustration. Before the elections, they were assured by

the Hon. Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh and the Deputy Prime Minister Ch. Devi Lal and by many other leaders that they would be immediately reinstated after the elections were over. But nothing has been done in this direction so far. The D.T.C. employees are in great distress.

It is, therefore, requested that the dismissed D.T.C. employees be reinstated immediately.

[*English*]

(viii) Need to expedite establishment of Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR (Mysore): Sir, the inordinate delay in the establishment of Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka has caused serious discontentment among the people of that State. The techno-economic feasibility report for the plant was approved by the Government of India in 1969 and the foundation was laid in 1971. The estimated cost of the plant was to the tune of Rs. 3000 crores. The State Government at the request of the Central Government have acquired about 10,000 acres of land. The Government of Karnataka has also assured the supply of the required quantities of water and power for the Steel Plant.

The Ispat Bharati Company was formed by the Government of India in 1982 to expedite the implementation of the project but the plant has not been set up so far. The delay in taking up this project is causing resentment among the people of Karnataka. Once the plant is set up, it will provide direct and indirect employment to about 70,000 persons.

As such, I request that every possible step should be taken to expedite the establishment of an integrated steel plant at Vijayanagar in Karnataka.