

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do agree with the Fourteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 26th November, 1985.”

*The motion was adopted.*

11.59 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Need to take a firm decision regarding setting up of a steel plant at Vijayanagar in Karnataka

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : The people of Karnataka are very much agitated over the fate of the Vijayanagar Steel plant.

It was in the year 1970 that the Government of India planned for the setting up of three steel plants at Visakhapatnam, Salem and Vijayanagar

Actually, the work on the Vijayanagar Steel Plant was inaugurated by the Late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1971. The Government of Karnataka went all out to acquire about 9,000 acres of land required for the project and the same has been handed over to the Government of India.

While heavy investments have already been made on the Visakhapatnam and Salem projects, the rich high grade iron ore based Vijayanagar is left out in the cold. At this rate we can foresee a situation where, instead of a huge Vijayanagar Steel plant, we would be landed up with slaughtered high grade reserves, abandoned mines and the misery for the population of Bellary District (Karnataka) which is depending on mining operations.

Government of India has been reportedly saying that the project will not

be shelved. But the latest statement of the Prime Minister in Bangalore with regard to steel plants has caused a disappointment to the people of Karnataka.

It is understood that the Vijayanagar Steel Project has not started so far for the reasons that it involves huge investment. If conventional steel making technology is adopted, there will be recurring losses. Then why these considerations were not applied to other steel plants established so far ? I, strongly urge upon the Government of India to take a firm decision in the matter.

12.00 hrs.

- (ii) Need to include Brutang Irrigation Project in the Seventh Plan to provide irrigation facilities to areas in Nayagarh and Khurda sub-division of Orissa

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : The entire area from Khurda to Daspalla in Puri District in Orissa covering fourteen Community Development Blocks has turned into a chronic drought-affected area. Because during the last two decades, the average annual rainfall in this area from 1966 to 1984 has come down to 38 inches from 51 inches, it has almost turned out to be a rain-shadow area.

But there are rivers like Brutang, Kwanria, Dahuka, Kusumi and HADA whose 95 per cent of water during the rains flows out to river Mahanadi and causes havoc. If seventy per cent of water of these rivers could be stored up, then the entire chronic drought affected region could be transformed into a granary of the country with its rich land resources. The Proposed Manibhadra Irrigation Project in Mahanadi can provide irrigation to this area. But this project has not yet taken off. So, I urge upon the Central Government to include Brutang Irrigation Project in the Seventh Plan which will provide irrigation to nearly 1.25 lakh acres in Nayagarh and Khurda Subdivision areas which have now become chronic drought affected.