

I.T.I. by the management of this project has also not been fulfilled so far.

Four and half years after laying the foundation stone, the Ministry of Steel is talking of the re-appraisal of the whole project.

I request the Hon. Minister of Steel and Mines to get the whole case looked into so that the construction work on this project is started immediately.

[English]

(v) **Need to set up a steel plant at Vijayanagar in Karnataka**

**SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :** The Government of India had a plan for the setting up of Steel Plants at Visakhapatnam and Salem and Vijay Nagar. The work on Vijay Nagar Steel Project was inaugurated by the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi on 14-10-1971. The Government of Karnataka has already earmarked land for the location of the steel plant. In spite of this while Visakhapatnam Steel Project had made quick progress and over Rs. 1200 crores have already been spent on it and Rs. 130 crores have already been spent even at Salem on the Stainless Steel Rolling Mill, even an investment decision is yet to be taken on the Vijayanagar Steel Project. It is regrettable that Visakhapatnam and Salem, neither of which is iron ore or coal based has received favourable treatment whereas Vijayanagar, which has 1200million tonnes of high grade iron ore, is left out in the cold.

The delay in the establishment of the Steel Plant at Vijayanagar will cause great discontentment among the local people. If the Steel Plant is set up at Vijayanagar it will go a long way in solving the unemployment problem in the State.

As such, I urge upon the Government of India to set up a Steel Plant at Vijayanagar without any further delay.

[Translation]

(vi) **Need for removal of misgivings being created amongst SC & ST regarding their reservation in Government services**

**SHRI GANGA RAM (Firozabad) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, under rule 377, I want to raise the following important issue in the House.

Some organizations based on casteism and some separatist elements are marking a propaganda and are creating a confusion among the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes of the country for their self interests and for making political capital that the Government of India are going to make some amendments in the Constitution, such as doing away with direct recruitment and reservation in promotions as provided under Article 355, removal of reservation clause for political representation provided under Article 330 and 332 through Article 334, and exclusion of some castes/tribes from the purview of Articles 341 and 342 by making some changes in the list of the castes/tribes included thereunder. This state of confusion is causing restlessness and resentment among the said section. By taking undue advantage of this situation, the undesirable elements are desperately trying to isolate this section from the nation's mainstream and are bent upon inciting a vast section of the society for caste struggle and class struggle. They are also trying to instigate class conflict even among the Government employees and officials from this section, as a result of which they are being exploited in various forms.

Therefore, in the interest of nations integrity and security, the Central Government should immediately declare a clear cut policy so that the confusion prevailing among the said section could be removed as early as possible, social security is also not disturbed and the sinister designs of secessionist and separatist elements could be frustrated.

[English]

(vii) **Need for survey in Etah district of U. P. to explore possibility of setting up cooking gas agencies**

**SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) :** With the large scale deforestation in the district of Etah in Uttar Pradesh the

decline in the availability of wood as fuel and the difficulties being experienced by the people in procuring kerosene oil requirement for cooking purposes excepting rationed quantity from the retailers, are causing great hardship in the absence of the adequate availability of fuel for cooking. Besides, Etah is a backward district.

The cooking gas agency in Etah cannot meet the requirement of the entire district comprising of Aliganj, Patiali, Rajaka Rampur, Ganj Dundwara, Sakeet, Bhargain, Sahawar, Sidhpura, Amapur, etc., having a population of about thirty thousand, each. A great need of setting up a cooking gas agency in each of these areas is being felt to overcome the fuel shortage.

I would, therefore, urge the Government to kindly conduct a survey of these areas to explore the possibility of setting up cooking gas agencies and thereafter take necessary steps to appoint the dealers in the selected areas.

(viii) **Need to increase the support price of Cotton**

**SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN** (Tirunelveli) : There has been poor yield of cotton crop this year, i. e. 1986-87 in States like Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. In order to protect the interests of the cotton growers, support price of cotton should be reconsidered and increased at least by 25 per cent so that using the yarn market sluggishness, the speculating cotton traders may not exploit the poor farmers.

12.16 hrs.

**STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER  
ON THE VISIT OF H. E. MR.  
MIKHAIL GORBACHOV,  
GENERAL SECRETARY  
OF THE CENTRAL  
COMMITTEE OF  
THE CPSU**

[English]

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) :** The General Secretary

of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, visited India from the 25th to the 28th of November at my invitation. The visit was in keeping with the established tradition of exchanges at the highest level between India and the Soviet Union. It was an important milestone in our bilateral relationship. It contributed significantly to stability in the region and peace in the world.

I held long and intensive discussions with General Secretary Gorbachev on a wide spectrum of issues, bilateral, regional and international. Talks were held simultaneously at the senior Ministerial level. These exchanges took place in a very warm and friendly atmosphere, characterized by mutual confidence and trust.

We discussed the broad outlines of our future cooperation in a longer term perspective. The rich experience of our past cooperation enabled us to explore new avenues to raise our bilateral cooperation to a qualitatively higher level. Several bilateral agreements were signed. Statements have been laid on the table of the House. The Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation encompasses the Tehri hydro-electric complex, the modernization of the Bokaro steel plant, the setting up of new coking coal mines and oil exploration in West Bengal. One important element of this agreement is the provision of local cost financing by the Soviet Union. The agreements in the economic, commercial, consular and cultural areas reflect the growing strength and dynamism of our relationship.

General Secretary Gorbachev and I agreed to restructure the pattern of our commercial and economic exchanges to realise the vast untapped potential for economic collaboration. Our Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Kamentsov are working out the details. We also decided to give a major thrust to our cooperation in science and technology. Large research and development projects are being identified in frontier technologies. A Soviet team led by Academician Marchuk, President of the USSR Academy of Sciences, will visit India shortly to discuss with our scientists the specific projects to be undertaken.