

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, February 19, 1969/Magha 30,
1890 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Mani-
bhai Patel.

श्री मणिभाई जे० पटेल : उपाध्यक्ष
महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ ...
(इंटरफ़ॉज)

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH):
Probably he is suggesting that the next
question also may be taken up along with
this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right.
Questions 31 and 32 can be clubbed to-
gether.

Indo-Iranian Industrial Collaboration

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*31. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL:
SHRI N. K. SOMANI:
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA:
SHRI K. M. KOUSHIK:
SHRI R. K. AMIN:
SHRI D. N. PATODIA:
SHRI J. MOHAMMAD IMAM:
SHRI C. C. DESAI:
SHRI SHIV KUMAR

SHASTRI:
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:
SHRI NARAIAAN SWARUP
SHARMA:
SHRI RAM SWARUP
VIDYARTHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the result of the discussions held

between the Indian and Iranian delegations
for Industrial collaboration between the
two countries;

- (b) whether any agreement has been
signed;
(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the extent to which India is likely
to be benefited as a result of this agree-
ment ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a)
to (c). Following discussions between the
Shahanshah of Iran and the Prime Minister
of India, letters were exchanged on 22nd
January, 1969, between the Government
of India and Iran setting up the Indo-
Iranian Joint Commission for Economic,
Trade and Technical Cooperation. The
agreement stipulates that the joint
Commission will apply itself to further
developing economic, trade and technical
cooperation between the two Governments.
To facilitate the task of the Commission
sub-committees dealing, with trade,
petroleum, petrochemicals, engineering
industries, power and water development
and transportation have been established.

(d) It will be difficult at this stage to
quantify the benefits likely to accrue as a
result of the Agreement. However, the
Government of India believes that increased
economic, trade and technical cooperation
between the two countries will be mutually
advantageous.

Indo-Iranian Economic Cooperation

- *32. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRI MEETHA LAL MEENA:
SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY:
SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA:
SHRI NARENDRA SINGH
MAHIDA:
SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR:
SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL

AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shah of Iran during his visit to India in January 1969, proposed a joint machinery at Ministers' level to work out measures for economic, commercial and technical cooperation between the two countries;

(b) whether Government have agreed to the proposal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Following discussions between the Shahanshah of Iran and the Prime Minister of India, letters were exchanged, on 22nd January, 1969, between the Governments of India and Iran setting up the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission for Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation. The agreement stipulates that the Joint Commission will apply itself to further developing economic, trade and technical cooperation between the two Governments. To facilitate the task of the Commission sub-committees dealing, *inter alia*, with trade, petroleum, petrochemicals, engineering industries, power and water development and transportation have been established.

श्री मणिभाई जे० पटेल : इस समय हमारे देश का जो-जो माल जाता है उसको छोड़कर बाकी और कौन सी ऐसी चीजें आपने रखी हैं जिससे कि भारत का कोई लाभ हो सकता है ?

श्री विनेश सिंह : हमारे यहां से कई तरह का सामान जाता है और इसकी एक लम्बी लिस्ट है। जहां तक इसका सम्बन्ध है कि और क्या सामान जा सकता है, किस तरह से व्यापार हमारे दोनों देशों के बीच बढ़ सकता है, इसी चीज को करने के लिए तो यह कमिशन बना है।

श्री मणिभाई जे० पटेल : कौन-कौन सी चीजें हैं जो जाती हैं। बहुत सी चीजें तो जाती हैं लेकिन उनके नाम क्या हैं ? ऐसी चीजों के लिए कोलैबोरेशन होना चाहिये जिससे ज्यादा से ज्यादा लाभ हो।

SHRI DINESH SINGH : If you wish, Sir, I can place it on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: For the information of the House, it may be placed on the Table.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI: As a result of continuous delay and procrastination at the door of the Government of India, the Shahanshah of Iran made a definite demand that a joint panel should be established between the two countries to promote trade and economic matters between them. In view of that, may I know whether this joint panel will set a time-limit for itself in the matter of taking a final decision for important projects like the Mithapur fertiliser project ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: If I may say so, the premise of the hon. member is not correct. This commission has not been set up to eliminate any so-called delay to which the hon. member has made a reference. This has been established to further strengthen the economic cooperation between the two countries.

So far as any specific project is concerned that has to be a decision of our national government.

SHRI N. SHIVAPPA: May I know what are the terms assigned with the agreement ? If you are taking our capital to Iran what is your share as against their's ? If they come here with their capital assistance and technical know-how what is the nature of that ? Secondly, instead of having a separate joint panel for collaboration between India and Iran, why not have a common Board of India with all other countries in order to improve our trade ? Thirdly, what are the manufactured and agricultural commodities agreed to be exported under the agreement to Iran ? Is rice one of the commodities to be exported; if so, will it not affect the internal food needs which are still not met ? Also, is crude oil to be imported to India from Iran ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I am sorry the hon. Member has not followed what I said. The agreement has been made to discuss these matters.

SHRI N. SHIVAPPA: What about forming a common Board with all other countries instead of having one Board for two countries ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: We have had discussions with different countries and also on a regional basis. This is working reasonably well. I do not think that a common Board on a global basis will be of any advantage just now.

SHRI K. M. KOUSHIK: May I know whether this agreement which has been entered into precludes directly or indirectly any trade agreements with countries like Israel ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: It does not preclude any direct discussions with any other country.

SHRI R. K. AMIN: I would like to have an answer to a specific question. In the Tata fertiliser project we wanted to import ammonia from Iran and export salt. Can we arrive at an agreement by which we can participate in the manufacture of ammonia in Iran and at the same time establish a salt-based chemical industry in Iran by exporting our own salt so that we can simultaneously solve the question of foreign exchange difficulty in this matter ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Quite right. That is the kind of discussions we are anticipating on this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Chintamani Panigrahi.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Sir, I would like to have a specific answer to my question. In view of the shortage of crude in the coming years.....

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, his name is not there on the list of hon. Members who have tabled this question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If I were to exhaust all the names from one Party then others will object. I have called four of them. I am keeping it open for others (*Interruptions*). Order, order. If all the

names on the list are to be called one Question will take at least 15 minutes (*Interruptions*). I have put a time limit for one question. I must stick to that (*Interruptions*). Order, order. Shri Panigrahi may resume his seat. I will call him later.

SHRI RANGA: I hope what you have said is not a ruling, because you have no right to give such rulings without consulting the Business Advisory committee or the leaders of the Opposition.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Am I to give all the time to one question ? More than 10 to 12 minutes for one question is not possible.

SHRI RANGA: You may ask for the co-operation of the House; I agree with you. But you cannot go against past conventions.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY: If you want to make a departure from the procedure that we are following, there can be only two possibilities. One is that you can fix a time-limit to a question and go on calling the names in the list until the time is exhausted; it does not matter if they all belong to the same party, because they have given notice and there is no question of party during the question hour. Because another member of the same party has been given an opportunity, you cannot deprive him of an opportunity. If you feel that one question is taking much of time you may limit the time for one question. That is a different matter altogether. But you cannot brush aside members who have given notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is agreed. That is the practice we follow. It is a question of time.

SHRI RANGA: Before you make a departure you have to consult the House.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: I have often been pleading that we should cover at least ten questions a day. But for that you cannot make a departure only for one single day and then revert to the old

practice. It should be done with the co-operation of the leaders of the opposition.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Those who give notice of questions are generally not allowed to ask supplementaries on other questions.

SHRI RANGA: If there is some procedure in the House, we have to follow that. You cannot change it without consulting the House.

श्री शिव नारायण : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपके आशीर्वाद से मैं तीन हाउसिज़—एसेम्बली, कौंसिल और इस पार्लियामेंट—का मेम्बर रह चुका हूँ। (व्यवधान) मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस हाउस में आप की सुप्रीम एथारिटी है। आप यहाँ की कार्यवाही को रेगुलेट कर सकते हैं। आपको यह राइट है कि आप एक मेम्बर को बुलायें या चार मेम्बरों को। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि किसी सवाल के साथ दस बीस सदस्यों के नाम रखने का सिस्टम बिल्कुल गलत है।

Any hon. Member who is standing in the House, you may call him.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA: At present, India's trade with Iran is small and in order to develop our trade relationship it is necessary that we should improve our exports. In this context, Iran has shown willingness to import Indian engineering goods and also to set up many engineering factories in Iran in collaboration with India. May I know the type of industries that are in contemplation for establishment in collaboration with Iran and what are the engineering goods that are likely to be exported from India in course of time?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: As the hon. Member is aware, there has been considerable increase in the export of iron and steel from India to Iran last year and it is our expectation that many more items such as railway equipments, transmission towers, telecommunication equipments and other manufactured items like pumps and

engines would find a favourable market in Iran. The Committee has set up a number of sub-committees which are going into the details of indentifying the field as well as specific items which can be of interest to the two countries. All the details will then be available.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA: What about setting up of factories there for engineering goods in collaboration ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: That is exactly what I said. This committee will go into it and see what are the possibilities of it.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA: What are the items under contemplation ?

SHRI J. MOHAMED IMAM: The Mithapur project, to which my hon. friend here referred, was originally contemplated to be started with the collaboration of the American Government which has since been withdrawn. Is there any proposal for collaboration of Tata Fertilisers with the Iranian Government so that they may supply them with ammonia and other important basic materials which are needed for a fertiliser plant ? Also, is there any proposal for collaboration between the Mangalore fertiliser plant and the Iranian Government because important basic materials, ammonia and other petroleum products, are to be obtained from Iran ? What are the various things under contemplation for which collaboration is sought?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: It was not our intention at this stage to discuss any specific proposal with a specific firm in India. We are discussing the possibility of collaboration between India and Iran in the manufacture of ammonia and fertilisers. This matter will be discussed in very specific terms.

श्री भीठा लाल मीना : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन उप-समितियों की पहली मीटिंग्स कब हो रही हैं और वे तेहरान में होंगी या दिल्ली में। इस तरह के समझौते अन्य किन किन देशों के साथ हो रहे हैं और

उन से हमारे देश को कितना फ़ायदा या नुकसान होता है ? मान लीजिए कि इन से कोई फ़ायदा नहीं हो रहा है, तो ये समितियाँ आदि बनाने से क्या फ़ायदा है ।

श्री बिनेश सिंह : मुझे ताज्जुब है कि माननीय सदस्य कहते हैं कि इस से कोई फ़ायदा नहीं हुआ । इस के फ़ायदे कई मर्तबा अख़बारों में आ चुके हैं और यहाँ पर भी उन का जिक्र हुआ है । कई सालों से इस की चर्चा हो रही है । जहाँ तक ईरान का सवाल है, इन उप-समितियों की दो मीटिंगज़ भारत में हो चुकी हैं । हम आशा करते हैं कि दोनों देशों के मिनिस्टर मई तक मिल सकेंगे और उस से पहले इन उप-समितियों की बैठकें हो जायेंगी ।

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA: May I know whether the Government of Iran has replied to the Government of India about the collaboration on the Mithapur Project and whether the firm of Kamanis have been given certain contracts for erecting electrical towers etc. in Iran ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: So far as the Mithapur Project is concerned, I mentioned specifically at the very beginning that it is a matter for us to consider ourselves here and the question of any foreign government coming into the picture does not arise. So far as Kamanis are concerned, I believe, Kamanis have received some orders to supply Transmission Lines to Iran.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: With reference to the answer given by the hon. Minister to my colleague Shri Shivappa's question, I would like to know what are the disadvantages at the moment to have a global panel and what are the advantages for having a panel for individual countries.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: The Ministry of Foreign Trade itself is a global panel. It will be discussing economic collaboration with all countries of the world. But I am talking of the specific discussions for which committees are set up.

श्री शिव कुमार शास्त्री : मैं आप के द्वारा माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या ईरान सरकार ने कुछ भारतीय उद्योगपतियों को अपने यहाँ नये उद्योगघन्वे प्रारम्भ करने के लिए निमंत्रित किया है ? यदि किया है तो उस बातचीत का परिणाम क्या है और वह कब से प्रारंभ होने जा रहा है ?

श्री बिनेश सिंह : मैं नहीं जानता हूँ कि कोई खास निमंत्रण ईरान सरकार से आया है लेकिन यह मैं जानता हूँ कि ईरान सरकार ने यह जाहिर किया है कि भारत के उद्योगपति जो उद्योग खड़ा करना चाहते हैं वहाँ के लोगों से मिल कर या और तरीके से उस पर बह ज़रूर गौर करेंगे ।

SHRI SWELL: As a measure of promoting economic cooperation between India and Iran, I would like to know whether the Shah of Iran, during his last visit, broached to the Government of India the idea of opening up of a new transport communication.....

श्री शिव चन्द्र भ्वा : मेरा नाम उस में है, मुझे पहले प्रश्न पूछने का मौका दिया जाना चाहिए ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will call you.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह सिद्धान्त की बात है कि जिस का नाम है उस को पहले मौका मिलना चाहिए । जिसका नाम नहीं है उस को बाद में बुलाया जाना चाहिए ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat? I am going to call him.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : नो सर, मेरा एतराज है प्रिंसिपल के बारे में...।

श्री शिव चन्द्र भ्वा : एक प्रश्न चल रहा है तो उस में जिस का नाम है पहले उस को बुलाइए, तब दूसरे को बुलाइए ।

SHRI SWELL: I would like to know whether the Shah of Iran broached to the Government of India the idea of opening up of new transport and communication route from the Persian Gulf through the Iranian land-mass, through the Soviet Union, by utilising the waters and lakes of that country, on to western Europe and, if so, I would like to know whether the Government of India has given any commitment in that regard.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: During the discussions, it was brought to our notice that Iran had developed certain port facilities, certain transport facilities, which could be utilised for sending our goods to the Soviet Union and to Europe. This matter will be considered by us in details.

श्री शिव चन्द्र भा : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि ईरान से जो बातें चल रही हैं, कोलंबोरेशन होगा तो जो लागत ईरान की लगेगी भले ही तफसील की बातें बाद में हों लेकिन एक रफ हिसाब बतायेंगे कि कितने की लागत का ईरानियन इन्वेस्टमेंट होगा और एक रफ हिसाब से प्रति साल कितना रिटर्न ईरान को जायगा मुनाफे के रूप में हो या इन्टेरेस्ट के रूप में हो ?

श्री विनेश सिंह : क्या बताऊँ उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य व्यापार की एक ऐसी बात कर रहे हैं जो कि हम लोगों की समझ में नहीं आती है। अभी बातचीत चल रही है, उस के पहले ही हम फायदा जोड़ने लगे तो मैं समझता हूँ कि जरा सा जल्दी है। कुछ बातचीत कर लेने दीजिए।

श्री शिव चन्द्र भा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह क्या जवाब देते हैं ? बातचीत चल रही है ; यह क्या जवाब है ? यह सदन को गुमराह करते हैं।

श्री विनेश सिंह : मैं कह रहा था कि कितनी रकम लगेगी यह भी तो बातचीत करके ही तय होगा। पहले कैसे तय होगा ?

SHRI JAIPAL SINGH: Sir, this is my maiden utterance in this session, not my maiden speech. Earlier on, I was somewhat shocked to see some senior Members of Parliament trying to teach you how you should conduct the business of Question Hour. The question Hour is meant for eliciting information and nothing else. It does not matter whose name is there.....

AN HON. MEMBER: Is it a question or a point of order?

SHRI JAIPAL SINGH: The point has been made that the names that are there must be called first.

If the Chair is satisfied that the information has been exhausted, he need not bother about the other names.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that the present drain on foreign exchange because of import of crude by foreign oil companies comes to about Rs. 80 crores a year. In view of the fact that the gap between the indigenous crude and the demand for crude for the refineries is going to increase to more than 7 million tonnes a year, may I know whether the Government, taking advantage of the present co-operation between India and Iran, is considering to have direct import of crude through the IOC from Iran, so that we can save the drain on foreign exchange?

Secondly, in the petro-chemical complex that is going to be developed with the co-operation of Iran, what is the total participation of Iranian Government which has been discussed with the Government of Iran?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : The hon. Member knows that the meeting has not yet taken place. How can I say what will be the capital involved?

So far as the first part of the question is concerned, we shall bear the suggestion of the hon. Member in mind.