

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 21, 1962/Sravana 30,
1884 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bridge on River Hooghly

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- *476. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. B. Das:
Shri Basumatari:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri B. K. Das:
Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri Pottekkatt:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Finance be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the preparation of the
project report of another bridge on
river Hooghly near Howrah has been
entrusted to anybody;

(b) if so, to whom; and

(c) when this will be submitted for
Government's approval?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry
of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari
Sinha): (a) The Government of West
Bengal has entrusted the work of
preparation of a report on the feasibility
of another crossing, over or under
the Hooghly river, to a firm of Con-
sulting Engineers.

(b) Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and
Tritton, London.

(c) The final report on the feasi-
bility study is expected to be sub-
mitted to the State Government by
the end of January, 1963.

†550 (A1) LSD—1.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know
whether the Government have asked
for any loan from abroad from the
World Bank or any other organisation
and if so, what is the amount of loan
asked for?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: On the
suggestion of the Ford Foundation's
Advisers, it was felt that the Inter-
national Bank of Reconstruction and
Development could be interested in
this project. Therefore, a formal ap-
peal was made to them to allot foreign
exchange component of that. They
have agreed to allot certain foreign
exchange component of the project,
for the preparation of the scheme.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know
in how many places survey has been
made and whether any recommenda-
tion has been made as to what kind
of bridge will be constructed whether
it is with pillars or without pillars?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: I would
invite the hon. Member to the reply
that I have given. This is itself a
feasibility study, so that the report
has not been prepared. This report
will go into the question whether the
project is at all feasible.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: What is
the estimated cost of this project and
what will be the foreign exchange
that might be required to complete
this project?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: It is a
feasibility study. Estimates have been
prepared by the firm which is entrusted
with this work. They say that
the cost of this study will be Rs. 2½
lakhs plus £18,000 to be paid to the
consultants and a further sum of
Rs. 1 lakh to the contractor if the
contractor is an Indian contractor.

Dr. K. L. Rao: May I know whether any Indian firm of Consulting engineers or the Consulting Engineer of the Government of India was called in to prepare this report before this was entrusted to a foreign firm?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: It was at the instance of the World Bank and the Ford Foundation that this firm was selected.

Mr. Speaker: The question is whether any Indian consulting engineers were consulted before giving it to a foreign firm.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: It is for the West Bengal State to have consultation or not. I cannot give an answer to this question.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if this project is a part of the C.M.P. plan?

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Yes.

Drilling Operations by ENI

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*477. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
 { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
 { **Shri B. K. Das:**
 { **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**
 { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
 { **Shrimati Benn Chakravartty:**

Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Italian State Enterprise "E.N.I." has agreed to undertake drilling operations for natural oil;

(b) which area it has chosen for this purpose; and

(c) whether it has started its work?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Negotiations in this regard are in progress between the E.N.I. and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

(b) The area in which E.N.I. will undertake drilling, has not been decided so far.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that an agreement with this E.N.I. was executed on 29-8-1961 and if so, what is that agreement?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There is a general agreement between the two parties to examine the possibility of contract drilling in any area that might be specified by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. In consequence of the general agreement, the O.N.G.C. have made certain proposals to the E.N.I. They are just now under active consideration of the two parties. Perhaps a decision may be taken within a few weeks if not days.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether in the meantime, the E.N.I. has agreed to contract drilling?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Yes. They have agreed to contract drilling. It is a question of the detailed conditions of their coming and undertaking this drilling.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Our country is having contracts of this kind with other countries also. May I know whether the terms of the agreement are the same with all the countries, or they differ from country to country?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Naturally, these conditions might, within the framework of certain common terms, differ here and there. There are not too many countries which are undertaking contract drilling. It is the E.N.I. which has advanced some credit to us, and, therefore, we are examining the proposal of getting contract drilling done by the Italian parties.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: What is the likely expenditure, as estimated at present, of the foreign exchange liability on account of these drilling operations by the E.N.I.?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The implication of foreign exchange expenditure under this contract drilling depends upon the quantum of drilling undertaken and agreed to between the two parties. Just now, there are proposals to get drilling done by them in the Gangetic basin and some other portions of the