

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, September 30, 1964/
Asvina 8, 1886 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Petro-Chemical Industry

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- *478. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
Shri Murl Manohar:
Shri Jashvant Mehta:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and
Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-level investment
delegation recently visited India to
discuss Japanese capital participation
in the development of petro-chemical
industry in India; and

(b) if so, the outcome of their
visit?

The Minister of State in the Minis-
try of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri
Alagesan): (a) A six-member techni-
cal delegation of petro-chemicals ex-
perts from Japan sponsored by the
Japan Consulting Institute in India is
presently touring India to get ac-
quainted with the various petro-
chemical manufacturing programmes
in India and to explore the possibili-
ties of collaboration. The technical
delegation will be returning to Japan
by the 10th October, 1964. A report is
expected to be submitted to the Gov-
ernment of Japan and the Govern-

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ment of India based on which the
prospects of financial collaboration
will be explored.

(b) This will be known after the
delegation returns to Japan and sub-
mits its report along with any pro-
posals for collaboration.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know
whether this delegation is interested
in the whole complex of our petro-
chemical industries or only in some
parts of it?

Shri Alagesan: We should like to
await their report; only then shall we
be able to know the extent of their
interest.

Shri D. C. Sharma: How long will it
take Government to receive the re-
port, consider it and arrive at some
kind of final conclusions? Can any
approximate time be given for that?

Shri Alagesan: Even if the dele-
gation's report is received by the end
of October, it should be possible for
us to take a decision thereon within
a month or two after that.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: What were
the terms of reference given to this
committee? May I also know whe-
ther this committee is enquiring into
the possibilities of only collaboration
or the further prospects of making
this industry more and more use-
ful?

Mr. Speaker: Where is the commit-
tee? Only a delegation is touring
round the country. There is no ques-
tion of any terms of reference being
given to a delegation.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Even if it
be a delegation, they must have come
for some specific purposes. What
were the purposes for which this
delegation had come?

Shri Alagesan: That has been sufficiently explained in the main answer. They will go to various places where we shall have our refineries, examine the possibilities of establishing petro-chemical projects and then make an assessment.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know whether Government have worked out the financial involvement, and if so, the extent thereof?

Mr. Speaker: That would be known after the report is received.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: May I know whether the collaboration with Japan will be on Government level or with private enterprise in Japan?

Shri Alagesan: This delegation consists of representatives of private industries in Japan.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether any offers were ever received or invited for collaboration in this field from any other countries which are experienced in petro-chemical industries, or there is any special reason why we went in for Japanese collaboration?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should appreciate that we are here dealing with a particular country only . . .

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I want to know whether there are any special reasons why the Japanese offer has been more to our liking?

Shri Alagesan: We have been holding talks with various parties in America, in UK etc. But no definite conclusions have been arrived at as yet.

Dr. Ranon Sen: It was reported earlier in this House that negotiations were going on with a French firm. May I know how far that has advanced?

Mr. Speaker: The French firm is not relevant to the main question.

Shri Oza: May I know whether Government have taken a final deci-

sion about which of the petro-chemical industries will be in the public sector and which will be in the private sector?

Shri Alagesan: That will take some time. The whole thing is under examination.

Shri Li'adhar Kotoki: Did this delegation examine the question of setting up petro-chemical industries based on natural gas produced in the Assam oil fields?

Mr. Speaker: They are touring round.

Shri Alagesan: I am afraid they will not be visiting Assam. They will go to other places like Koyali, Bombay etc.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Did the Japanese delegation discuss the question of equity participation in our petro-chemical industry or is it only lending money by way of yen credit?

Shri Alagesan: I would submit that we have to await the report.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : ये पेट्रो कैमिकल्स इंडस्ट्री जिसके लिए इतना बड़ा प्रतिनिधि मंडल आ रहा है, इसके लिए चौथी पंचवर्षीय योजना में कितना रुपया रखा गया है ?

पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री (श्री हुमायून् कबिर) : यह अभी तक तै नहीं हुआ है। वह प्रतिनिधि मंडल आया, हमने उसका स्वागत किया। जब वह अपनी रिपोर्ट देग तो हम उस पर विचार करेंगे।

House Collapse in Delhi

*479. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news regarding the collapse of a double-storey building in