

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, February 23, 1965/
Phalguna 4, 1886 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Paradeep Port

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Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Bishwanath Roy:
Maharajkumar Vijaya
Ananda:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bade:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavalaya:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Daljit Singh:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shri Surendranath
Dwivedy:
Shri J. B. S. Bist:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Dr. Renen Sen:
Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Shri Maheswar Nalk:

Will the Minister of Transport be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the
Government are considering to take
over the Paradeep port project of
Orissa;

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(b) if so, when it is likely to be
taken; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Transport (Shri
Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). A state-
ment is laid on the Table of the
Sabha.

STATEMENT

In June 1964, the Orissa Govern-
ment requested that the Central
Government should take over the re-
sponsibility for financing the Paradeep
Port Project. The reasons given by
the State Government was that the
cost of the Project has risen from the
original estimate of Rs. 12 crores to
Rs. 26 crores and it was beyond the
capacity of the State Government to
finance this Project from their own
resources. The State Government
have also suggested that the Central
Government should take over the
Project under their direct control.

The Project has made consider-
able progress. It is in the national
interest that the Project should be
completed as early as possible. The
Government of India are, therefore,
actively examining the proposals.
A decision will be taken as soon as
possible.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Is it not
a fact that in carrying out the work
on this project, the State Government
of Orissa disregarded all the techni-
cal advice given to it by their con-
sultants and other experts and as a
result of that they made certain mis-
takes which are bound to push up
the cost of the project by several
crores of rupees and the Central Gov-
ernment has now to

Mr. Speaker: How many questions have been combined? It is a long supplementary:

Shri Raj Bahadur: The project is under a qualified Chief Engineer. They have been proceeding according to his advice. They also appointed the consultants who drew up the project report. I do not think the State Government has, as such, defied any technical advice. Maybe, there may have been differences of opinion between the Chief Engineer and the consultants. But they are of normal routine nature.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: If the Central Government decides to take over this project, will they also take over the Expressway project which is an ancillary scheme of the port project?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The proposal that has been made to us, to the Ministry of Transport, is in regard to the taking over of the Paradeep Port project.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : उड़ीसा के गवर्नर साहब हिन्दुस्तान के सब से बड़े इंजीनियरों में से एक हैं फिर इस को केन्द्रीय सरकार को सौंपने का क्या कारण है ? दूसरे हर जगह जब डिस्ट्रीबाइजेशन हो रहा है तो क्या कारण हुआ जिसकी कि वजह से सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट इस पोर्ट के काम को अपने हाथ में लेने का विचार कर रही है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : गवर्नर साहब इस प्रोजेक्ट पर काम नहीं कर रहे हैं ।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि राज्य सरकार ने जो यह सुझाव दिया है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार इस प्रोजेक्ट को अपने हाथ में ले ले तो यह सुझाव कब दिया गया था, कितने समय से सरकार इस की जांच कर रही है और कब तक उस जांच पड़ताल का काम पूरा हो जायेगा ?

श्री राज बहादुर : सर्वप्रथम यह सुझाव जून सन् 1964 में दिया गया था । इस का

मुख्य कारण घनाभाव था । विचार किया जा रहा है कि किस प्रकार से इस के लिए धन जुटाया जाय और किस प्रकार से और किन शर्तों पर सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट द्वारा इस काम को अपने हाथ में लिया जाय ?

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : अध्यक्ष महोदय . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह निर्णय कब तक हो जायेगा ?

श्री राज बहादुर : इस पर निर्णय, मैं समझता हूँ, कि निकट भविष्य में हो जायेगा ।

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know what were the original estimates and how much increase has been made in the cost of construction and what was the scheduled date of its completion?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The project was originally estimated to cost about Rs. 12 crores which now, according to their estimate, is to cost Rs. 26 crores. Our technical experts, however, feel that it might be scaled down to Rs. 20.5 crores.

Shri Subodh Hansda: The original estimate of the project was only Rs 12 crores and now it has been increased to Rs. 26 crores. I would like to know what are the main items that have been added in this project for which this estimate has gone up to Rs. 26 crores.

Shri Raj Bahadur: That will be a matter of detail.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it a fact that the World Bank team recently visited this Port? May I know what is their reaction thereto?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The project report is considered to be full of promise and a feasible one. It will be a good addition to our major ports.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : ऐसे कौन से कारण हैं जिन के फलस्वरूप राज्य सरकार पारादीप पोर्ट के काम को केन्द्रीय सरकार को

दने को तैयार हो गई है। कौन सी ऐसी कठिनाई है जिसके कि कारण केन्द्रीय सरकार इस को अपने हाथ में ले रही है? दूसरे केन्द्रीय सरकार इस में कितना धन लगायेगी और राज्य सरकार कितना धन लगायेगी?

श्री राज बहादुर : धनाभाव मुख्य कारण है। राज्य सरकार ने अब तक इस पर 8 करोड़ लगाया है और अनुमान है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार को 11, 12 करोड़ से अधिक ही इस पर लगाना पड़ेगा अगर वह इसको अपने हाथ में ले लेती है।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : वह क्या कारण हैं जिनकी वजह से राज्य सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार को इस काम को अपने हाथ में लेने के लिए कहा है?

श्री राज बहादुर : मैं ने कहा तो कि धनाभाव के कारण।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बरवा : क्या राज्य सरकार ने कोई शर्तें भी रखी हैं?

श्री राज बहादुर : राज्य सरकार ने यह भी कहा है कि यह प्रोजेक्ट बड़ा है इस पर वह सारा रुपया खुद नहीं लगा सकती, लेकिन चूंकि यह प्रोजेक्ट राष्ट्रीय हित में है इसलिए इस पर विचार कर रहे हैं।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : हुगली नदी चूंकि भर रही है इसलिए जहाजों के आने जाने में कठिनाई हो रही है, पारादीप पोर्ट के अलावा और कोई दूसरा बन्दरगाह नहीं है इसलिए इन सारी बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार इस पारादीप पोर्ट को अपने हाथ में ले कर इस को बनायेगी?

श्री राज बहादुर : हुगली नदी की भी चिन्ता की जा रही है। हुगली नदी पर भी जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य को पता होगा हलदिया का बन्दरगाह बनाया जा रहा है जोकि कलकत्ता का सबसिडिपरी पोर्ट होगा, बाकी उस का काम अलग है और पारादीप पोर्ट का काम अलग है।

Shri P. K. Deo: May I know whether it is not a fact that the Paradip port is being taken over by the Centre at the suggestion of the Chairman of the Shipping Board, as a result of mismanagement and wasteful expenditure by one Shri Srinivasan, Chief Engineer, who is not only involved in case PE-37/59 of the Madras Branch of the SPE, but has also made an advance payment of 90 per cent..

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister says that it is being taken over by the Centre because the State Government have no finances.

Shri P. K. Deo: Let me finish my question. I want some further information. May I know whether it is a fact that the said engineer had made 90 per cent advance payment amounting to about Rs. 14 lakhs to Biju Patnaik's Kalinga Industries.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether this is being taken over by the Central Government because there was wasteful expenditure and because there were certain other.....

Shri P. K. Deo: Advance payments were made to the tune of about Rs. 14 lakhs, that is, to the extent of about 90 per cent, for tabular structures later found unsuitable in the saline climate.

Mr. Speaker: A supplementary question cannot be so long as to take five minutes.

श्री प्र० के० दे० : मैं स्प्लीमेंटरी कर रहा हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : स्प्लीमेंटरी में इतना लम्बा नहीं कर सकते, सिर्फ़ क्वेश्चन कर लें।

Shri Raj Bahadur: The main reason which has been advanced by the State Government to us is one of lack of resources to complete the project. So far as wasteful expenditure is concerned, we have yet to go into the whole matter to find out whe-

ther there is any waste-ful expenditure. I think that what the hon. Member is referring to is some case against the present Chief Engineer of the port, started in Madras, not in relation to Paradip port, but some earlier case in Madras if that be so, I think that that will not be relevant to the main question.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Japanese ships were seen near Paradip port in World War II, and Chinese ships are reported to have come near the Orissa waters near Paradip port recently. May I know whether Government are going to make this port a kind of naval base so that no enemy can overtake us at this port?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This question may be addressed to the Minister of Defence.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether Government have any policy as to the projects which will be taken up by the Centre and the projects which will be taken up by the States? May I know whether it is open to a State Government to start a project and spend some money and then try to pass on the buck to the Central Government?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This question is very pertinent. There was a very strong recommendation by the State Government and by other shipping interests also that we should construct this Paradip port and include it in the Third Plan. We appointed a Committee which only advised its development into an intermediate port, in view of the financial resources needed and the non-availability thereof. Later on, however, the State Government insisted on this, and they said that they would like to go ahead with it, which after due consideration they were allowed to do. Initially, the cost of the project was supposed to be about Rs. 12 crores, which has now gone up to about Rs. 20 crores. This is the reason why they want us to take it over, and that

is why we are considering it. At any rate, it is in the national interest to develop it.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What is this answer? That means that anybody can start a project and pass it on to the Centre. Surely, there must be some policy.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I should like to add that it is in the national interest that we want to take it over and develop it. The point was that it could not be included in the Third Plan. It is being considered for inclusion in the Fourth Plan, and with advance action we shall take it up.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: All developments are in the national interest. We understand that very well.

Shri Buta Singh: Is it true that the CBI report on Orissa affairs has completely absolved Shri Biju Patnaik of any improper gains from the affairs of the Paradip port?

Mr. Speaker: I cannot go into those things.

Shri Buta Singh: There was an investigation by the CBI and we were informed like that.

Sethusamudram Project

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 Shri Jagdev Singh
 Siddhanti:
 Shri R. Ramanathan
 Chettiar:
 Shri Bishwanath Roy:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri Sezhlyan:
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
 Dr. P. Srinivasan:
 Shri Paramasivan:
 Shri R. S. Pandey:
 Shri R. Barua:
 Shri Vishwa Nath
 Pandey:
 Shri L. N. Bhanja Deo:
 Shrimati Renuka
 Barkataki:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state: