

श्री गोपाल स्वरूप पाठक : इसका जवाब हम मिनिस्ट्री दे सकती है। प्रीवेंटिव डिटेन्शन एक्ट मेरे अंडर में नहीं आता है।

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Has the Minister's attention been drawn to statements made by two of his colleagues—one the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation and the other, the Railway Minister, sometime ago—the former only last month and the latter, some four months ago—that in view of the troubled conditions in the country, the disturbances in various parts of the country, the elections are likely to be postponed by a few months and, if so, what is the Minister's reaction to that?

Shri G. S. Pathak: My reaction is that the election should not be postponed, if my reaction has any value.

The Minister of Railways (Shri S. K. Patil): May I be permitted to say that no such statement has ever been made by me.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It appeared in the press.

Dr. M. M. Das: Considering the highly irritated temper of the people at present, do the Government think that it will be necessary to issue special instructions to the State Governments so far as the peaceful conduct of the elections is concerned?

Shri G. S. Pathak: I have already answered it.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: In view of the fact that the conditions prevailing today are so serious and grave that the Central Government must make additional, special arrangements for facilitating the orderly conduct of the elections, may I know on what grounds this appreciation is based and whether the Government have also made any arrangements to see that the administrative machinery and administrative patronage is not used during the elections against opposition groups?

Shri Ranga: The local ministries should be dismissed.

Shri G. S. Pathak: I do not know whether this arises out of the main question. The conduct of the elections is the charge of the Election Commission. I have already said that law and order is the responsibility of the State Governments. Of course, the Central Government wants that the elections should be conducted in a peaceful atmosphere and there should be no disturbances.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Keeping in view the fact that the peaceful and orderly conduct of elections depends on the closest cooperation between all the parties concerned, may I know whether the Minister intends to invite all the political parties to adopt a common code of conduct to be observed in the elections and whether this was done before the last elections?

Shri G. S. Pathak: It is a suggestion, not a question.

Mr. Speaker: Was it done before the last elections?

Shri G. S. Pathak: I am not aware of it.

Foreign Exchange for Haldia Port Project

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- *548. **Shri Maheswar Naik:**
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shri D. D. Puri:
Shri Nath Pal:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
Shri Kolla Venkalah:
Shri Warrior:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Dr. Ranen Sen:

Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation Shipping and Tourism be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 35 on the 26th July, 1966 and state—

(a) whether a final assessment has since been made of the foreign ex-

change requirement for the Haldia Port Project; and

(b) if so, the total requirement and how it is proposed to be met?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total foreign exchange requirement of the Haldia Project, made by the Calcutta Port Commissioners, is estimated at Rs. 4.4 crores (pre-devaluation) i.e., Rs. 7 crores (post-devaluation). The question of meeting these requirements is under examination.

Shri Maheswar Naik: From the statement I find the foreign exchange is estimated to be Rs. 7 crores. May I know the total estimated cost of the entire project?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: The cost of the entire project under the revised scheme is about Rs. 40 crores of which the foreign exchange element would be somewhere near Rs. 7 crores.

Shri Maheswar Naik: May I know whether it is a fact that the Union Government has already asked the Calcutta Port Commission to go ahead with the programme for the Haldia project in view of the fact that there is delay with delay in the landing of ships in Calcutta Port?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: Some preliminary works have already been undertaken. The Port Commissioners have been asked to process some tender applications.

श्री इन्द्रम चन्द्र कल्लुवाय : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह 4 करोड़ 4 लाख ४० लगाने की जो योजना है, जो कि अब 7 करोड़ की हो गई है, यह सरकार कहां से पूरा करेगी, इसके बारे में आपने विवरण में नहीं दिया है,

यह रफ़ा कहां से लेकर लगाया जायगा और यदि नहीं मिला तो क्या यह योजना प्रवृत्ती रहेगी ?

Shri C. M. Poonacha: The foreign exchange element is sought to be met through sundry credits or from rupee payment sources.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय : माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने जो उत्तर दिया है, उस में लिखा है कि "The question of meeting these requirements is under examination." मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस का आंशिक निर्णय कब तक हो जायगा ?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): It has already been taken up actively. It came before the Cabinet a few days ago and the Cabinet has approved the scheme. Final approval has already been given.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: With the present progress, as it is discernible today, may I know by what time the Government would be in a position to get this port come into operation?

Shri Sanjiva Reddy: I think it will take about three or four years after we start the work.

Sethusamudram Project

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*344. **Dr. M. M. Das:**

Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:

Shri S. C. Samanta:

Shri Subodh Hansda:

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Dr. P. Srinivasan:

Shri Surendra Pal Singh:

Shri D. D. Puri:

Shri Muthiah:

Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Government of Madras for the Sethusamudram Project and reimbursed later by the Central Government;