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LOK SABHA DEBATES
(Part I Questions and Answers)

2915

2916

LOK SABHA
Saturday, 7th May, 1955.

*The Lok Sabha met at Half Past Ten
of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Short Notice Questions and Answers

STEEL PLANT

S.N.Q. No. 17. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Steel Mission has submitted its report to the Government of India in regard to the location of the third steel Plant;

(b) if so, the name of the place suggested in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, when the report is likely to be submitted?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A preliminary report is expected within 10 weeks.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government of India will consult the Governments concerned in regard to that report before a final decision is taken in regard to the location of the steel plant?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not in a position to give any assurance of that nature at the present moment. It will all depend upon the report.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it true that according to certain understandings, the Chief Ministers of the States concerned will be consulted before the finalisation of the site?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, Sir, if one, two or three alternative sites are recommended, naturally, the Governments concerned will have to be consulted and it is rather difficult for me at this stage to answer a hypothetical question of that nature.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know what are the sites recommended?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No recommendations have yet been made.

Shri Matthea: What portion of the capital is going to be from the private sector?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know. We have not come yet to the stage of considering the project. But, at the present moment, the intention of Government is that Government should find as much of the capital as is necessary.

Shri L. N. Mishra: I want to know whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar sent representations with regard to the location, and what are the reasons the Government of Bihar have put forward?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Government of Bihar sent representatives to meet the Mission. What arguments they put forward before the Mission, I am not aware of.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the unanimous resolution of the Bihar Assembly in

this respect to locate the steel plant at Sindri or near about?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, Sir.

Shri Joachim Alva: Has the Government come to any conclusion as to what advantages the country will get if it is the British plant or the German plant or the Soviet plant?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Government is not in a position to evaluate the relative advantages or disadvantages as between these three plants.

Shri B. N. Misra: As the hon. Minister has said that there are three prospective sites which have been recommended, may I know which are these three prospective sites?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He did not say so. He said he is not able to assess the relative merits of the British, the Russian and the German steel plants.

CYCLONE OVER MANIPUR

S.N.Q. No. 18. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a devastating cyclone swept over Manipur on the 29th April, 1955 causing extensive damage;

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused both in the hills and plains as a result thereof;

(c) the area affected by the cyclone; and

(d) the relief measures proposed and undertaken by Government?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): There was a hailstorm of more than usual intensity but of short duration in and around Imphal on the afternoon of the 29th April, 1955. Some trees were uprooted and houses damaged. There was also temporary interruption of communications but no damage was caused to crops since sowing had not begun in the area. The State Government have received no report or representation to show that in any case damage has been of such a degree as to call for any distress relief measures, but if there is any deserving case, the State Government would do the needful.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know if the Government of Manipur has asked the Central Government to send any help?

Shri Datar: As I have stated, we have not received any report at all.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know if the information supplied by the hon. Minister is a complete report about the Cyclone?

***Shri Datar:** Sir, may I place the full report before the House as we have received from the Chief Commissioner?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes.

*From Chief Commissioner, Imphal To, Home, New Delhi.

"Dated the 4th May, 1955.

Mathew to Sahgal your wireless message received here on 3rd night (.) There was a hailstorm of more than usual intensity but of short duration in and around Imphal on the 29th afternoon (.) Houses trees were uprooted and there was also damage to some houses and also temporary interruption of communications. (.) No damage to crops since sowing has not begun in the area (.) No report received that any other area has been affected (.) No report or representation to Government of damage of such degree or extent as to call for distress relief measures by Government."