

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

Thursday, June 1, 1967/Jyaishta 11,  
1889 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: Questions 211 and 212  
may be taken up together.

#### Haldia-Barauni Pipeline

- \*211. Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
Shri Devan Sen:  
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:  
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:  
Shri Heerji Bhai:  
Shri K. Pradhan:

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

(a) whether the laying of the Haldia-  
Barauni pipeline has been completed;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the  
Raniganj coalfield area between Salan-  
pur and Ondal, the pipeline's align-  
ment has been challenged and com-  
pensation claimed by certain mine-  
owners;

(c) if so, whether there is a proposal  
to make a fresh detour of the pipeline  
in order to avoid the disputed area  
and if so, the cost thereof; and

(d) the responsibility for such faulty  
alignment entailing large losses to the  
Indian Oil Corporation?

The Minister of State in the Minis-  
try of Planning, Petroleum and Chemi-

icals and Social Welfare (Shri Raghu  
Ramiah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir; certain collieries have  
claimed compensation from the Indian  
Oil Corporation for the loss likely to  
be sustained by them due to conse-  
quential restrictions on mining opera-  
tions.

(c) Government has approved of a  
proposal to construct a diversion line  
at a cost of about Rs. 196 lakhs.

(d) This is under examination.

#### Haldia-Barauni Pipeline

- \*212. Shri Bibhuti Mishra:  
Shri K. N. Tiwary:  
Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
Shri H. P. Chatterjee:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri Yashpal Singh:  
Shri Swell:  
Shri Devan Sen:  
Shri P. K. Ghosh:  
Shri Kartik Oraon:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a pipe-  
line from Haldia to Barauni was con-  
structed in December, 1965;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the  
pipeline is not in use even now; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Minis-  
try of Planning, Petroleum and Chemi-  
cals and Social Welfare (Shri Raghu  
Ramiah): (a) The laying of the  
Haldia-Barauni pipeline was complet-  
ed in May 1966. Pumping stations and  
one of the two delivery stations have  
also been completed. A second deli-  
very station is almost ready.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is an order of the Calcutta High Court staying the operation of the pipeline until the disposal of certain pending Court proceedings.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Sir, this is a very important matter. From the replies of the hon. Minister, it is clear that, firstly, this pipeline cannot be used—it is lying idle—secondly, the alignment has been faulty and, thirdly, the detour which will have to be made will cost nearly Rs. 2 crores and fixing the responsibility for this is under examination.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the supervision of this work of laying the pipeline was entrusted to an American firm of Bechtels by a special agreement and will he please tell us what were the terms of that agreement and whether the provisions of that agreement were properly carried out by Bechtels or not?

**Shri Raghu Ramiah:** To my recollection Bechte's were the technical advisers. The construction contract was given to an Italian company. Bechtels were giving technical advice on the laying of the pipeline.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** I wanted to know whether the terms of the agreement with Bechtels—they were the technical advisers; that is true—were properly carried out. The work is over now and Bechtels have gone away and they have been paid money. It is now found that the pipeline has been laid in the wrong place. Who is going to fix the responsibility for this in terms of the agreement?

**Shri Raghu Ramiah:** I have not got a copy of the agreement with me now. Part of the agreement was to give technical advice. They have given technical advice....

**An hon. Member:** If it is a wrong advice?

**The Minister of Planning, Petroleum**

**(Shri Asoka Mehta):** This matter has been gone into and we have already decided to appoint an inquiry committee. That committee will identify as to who is responsible and to what extent. In that connection also, we are looking into... (Interruption). Will you please listen to what I have to say? You can put your supplementary afterwards.

**श्री जयु सिन्घे :** घाप गुस्ता बहुत हो जाते हैं। स्पष्टीकरण लोग मांगते हैं। गुस्ता होने की क्या ज़रूरत है। मंत्री बन गए हो तो जरा ठंडे दिमाग से बात करो।

**श्री शिव नारायण :** घाप ठंडे दिमाग से क्यों नहीं सुनते हैं ?

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** Let me finish what I have to say. You can ask any further question afterwards.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would request the Minister to address the Chair.

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** Sir, this committee will also consider the responsibility of Bechtels, as well as of all other persons concerned. We have already examined it and this committee also will examine the contractual agreement and will see, arising out of the contract, what steps can be taken against Bechtels and others if they are found to be guilty.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Is it not also a fact that the expenditure for laying this pipeline was round about Rs. 25 crores. The hon. Minister will correct me if the figure is a bit inexact. This amount of Rs. 25 crores was sanctioned by the Government on the basis of a certain capacity for that pipeline. Is it not a fact that, after the pipeline was laid, was constructed, it is found that, though the original expenditure of Rs. 25 crores remains as it was, the actual capacity of the pipeline is much less than what has been stated earlier?

**Shri Raghu Ramiah:** The cost of the

section is concerned, is Rs. 15.83 crores; the cost of the section between Barauni and Kanpur is Rs. 15 crores excluding, of course, the cost of the delivery stations. I am not aware of any shortfall in the capacity of the pipeline.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** What was the estimated capacity for which the amount of Rs. 25 crores was sanctioned and what is the capacity now found?

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** The position is this. Originally this pipeline was to be a one-way pipeline, but at the time of the Chinese aggression it was felt that a two-way pipeline be laid between Haldia and Barauni. This two-way pipeline is laid for the purpose of having some kind of an additional capacity which may be used under special circumstances. It is, therefore, not proper to consider that capacity as normal capacity that is available because the cost of using that particular pipeline for two-way traffic will be considerably higher.

**श्री वैभेन सेन :** हल्दिया बरौनी पाइप लाइन का काम शुरू जब हुआ था तो क्या यह सही नहीं है कि बेंगलूर बंगाल की सरकार के चीफ माइनिंग एडवाइजर और केन्द्रीय सरकार के चीफ माइनिंग एडवाइजर ने इंडियन प्रायल कारपोरेशन को यह सलाह दी थी कि पाइप लाइन को कालियरी इलाके से होते हुए न बिठाया जाए क्योंकि वहाँ पर कोयला है और इससे पाइप भी खतरे में आएगी और कोयले को उठाने में भी रुकावट पैदा होगी ?

**Shri Raghu Ramalak:** After the original alignment was made over Raniganj coalmines, in about September 1963, the West Bengal Government asked for a reconsideration of the alignment over the coalmines on the ground of safety of the calbelt below the pipeline and also on the ground that a considerable quantity of coal will be locked up under the pipeline. It is true.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** The point is this. They had given a warning beforehand that this should not be done and he admits that. Why was that ignored? Crores of rupees have been wasted.

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** It is precisely what the Inquiry Committee is looking into. We have carefully gone through all the records and I feel that it is necessary to have an independent scrutiny made into the matter.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** हमारे फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर भी बैठे हुए हैं। सोलह करोड़ के लगभग इस पर खर्च हुआ है। इतनी बड़ी धनराशि खर्च होने के बाद भी यह पाइप लाइन नहीं चल रही है। इसके बारे में मुकदमा हाई कोर्ट में पड़ा हुआ है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार के प्रादमी इसकी योजना बनाने के पहले क्या करते रहे और उन्होंने इन सब बातों के बारे में क्यों नहीं सोचा ?

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** I have replied to that question. Some mistake has been made.... (Interruptions).

**Mr. Speaker:** Let him answer.

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** Some mistake has been made and, therefore, we have appointed a committee. Mr. A. K. Roy, the former Auditor-General, has agreed to look into this matter and tell us as to who was responsible and to what extent. This is one part of it.

Regarding the second part of the question, it is true that this particular pipeline is not being used just now. But now that we have agreed to a new alignment—there will be a re-alignment of the pipeline—it is possible to reach an agreement with the coal-mine owners and also with the officials concerned, so that for a short period when the new alignment is being made, we may be able to use this pipeline. But this is a matter to be decided with the consent of the court.

श्री विभूति सिन्धु : क्या यह सही है कि जब यह पाइप-लाइन कलकत्ता से जाने की बात हुई, तो कई इंजीनियरों ने कहा था कि इस पाइप-लाइन को कलकत्ता से जाना मुश्किल होगा, क्योंकि उसको कोल-बेल्ट में से जाना पड़ेगा, लेकिन पोलिटिकल एजोटसन की बजह से भारत सरकार झुक गई और उसने यह सुझाव कबूल कर लिया ? क्या यह सरकार वास्तविकता को देखती है या राजनीतिक बाधाएं पर धोखेबाज बनाती है ? जिन लोगों ने यह गलती की, उनको सजा देने का क्या उपाय सोचा जा रहा है, क्योंकि मई, 1965 में यह काम कम्पलीट हो गया और आज तक यह मामला पड़ा हुआ है ?

Shri Asoka Mehta: I am not aware of any political agitation, nor am I aware of the Government having yielded to any political agitation in this matter.

As regards the second part of the question, I have made it clear that we have appointed an independent person of great experience and great authority, and as soon as we get the report we shall take appropriate action against those who are found to be guilty.

श्री क० मा० तिवारी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री ने इन बारे में जिन गलती का जिक्र किया है, वह गलती सरकार के ध्यान में कब आई और यह कमेटी कब बनाई गई । मंत्री महोदय ने यह भी कहा है कि दूसरी पाइप-लाइन बनाने की योजना है । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उस पर कितना खर्च होगा ।

श्री अशोक मेहता : जब यह मामला कोर्ट के सामने आया, तब वे सारे पेपर देखे गये । मैं चन्द हफ्त पहले आया हूँ . . . . .

श्री मधु सिन्धु : यह जवाब ठीक नहीं है । यह सरकार एक है । मंत्री महोदय कब आए, इनसे मतलब नहीं है ।

श्री अशोक मेहता : इसीलिए मैंने कहा है कि जब यह मामला कोर्ट के सामने आया . . . . .

एक माननीय सदस्य : कोर्ट के सामने कब आया ?

श्री अशोक मेहता : . . . . . तब इसको देखा गया । मैं तो अपनी तरफ से ही कह सकता हूँ कि हमने उसके बाद देखा । री-एलाइनमेंट पर 197 लाख खर्च होगा । यह भी बताया गया है कि जब इस मामले के बारे में मामूलात हुई, तो जांच कमेटी नियुक्त करने का फैसला किया गया ।

Shri S. C. Samanta: In reply to Q. No. 212, the hon. Minister has said that a case is pending in the High Court and so, the pipeline cannot be brought into use. I would like to know the details about the case that is pending.

Shri Raghu Ramiah: The coal-mine owners filed a claim for compensation and later on filed a writ petition in the Calcutta High Court, and the Calcutta High Court has issued an injunction. That is why we are unable to commission the pipe-line.

श्री राघु राम सिंह : यह बात समझ में नहीं आई है कि जब यह केस हाई कोर्ट में पेश हुआ है, तो सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त एन्क्वायरी कमेटी कैसे काम कर सकती है, क्योंकि यह कन्टेम्प्ट प्राक कोर्ट का मामला हो जायेगा । इसलिए क्या यह बेहतर नहीं होगा कि पहले हाई कोर्ट से यह मामला तय होने दिया जाये और उसके बाद एन्क्वायरी कमेटी काम करे ?

Shri Raghu Ramiah: The scope of the inquiry committee is quite different. That committee would be going into the circumstances under which the alignment has been made, the objections that have been raised and the manner in which the objections were considered, whether any consid-

deration was given to them and also the circumstances under which realignment has to be made. These do not come within the scope of the High Court writ.

**Shri Swell:** The hon. Minister has tried to soft-pedal the whole issue by calling it a mistake. It was a very costly mistake. Rs. 16 crores had been spent on laying this line. The coal-mine owners are claiming a compensation of Rs. 19 crores. Then, they are spending another Rs. 2 crores on re-aligning it, and then on top of it all, every day, they are losing substantial amounts of money because the oil that should have gone through this pipeline is now being carried in other ways. The hon. Minister has said that he would cause an inquiry to be made into this whole matter. I want to know specifically whether at the time when the Oil India authorities overruled the objections of the mining advisers and the chief mining inspector they did so with the knowledge and approval of the minister concerned? What kind of enquiry will this be? Will it be a wishy-washy enquiry or will it be something that will definitely fix responsibility on the people concerned and recover the entire amount of money from them?

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** This was done with the knowledge and consent of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals. That is why it is necessary to have an independent enquiry made into it so that we also know who is responsible in our Ministry or in any other ministry in the Government. As I pointed out we have appointed Shri A. K. Roy, our former Auditor-General as the person to enquire into this and I do not think it is fair to say about the former Auditor-General that this enquiry would be wishy-washy.

**श्री देवेन सेन :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह जो कम्पनीयारी कमेटी बिल्डिंग जायेगी, क्या उसके द्वारा इस पइपु की भी जांच की जायेगी कि इस मामले में कारेन

शायल कम्पनीय, कोलियरी-मोनर, कारेन कॅपिटलिस्ट्स और इंडियन शायल कारपोरेशन के डायरेक्टर्स का क्या हाथ था ।

**श्री असोक मेहता :** इसमें न कारेन शायल कम्पनीय के हाथ का सबाब उठता है और न कोलियरी-मोनर के हाथ का सबाब उठता है । यह फैसला किया गया इंडियन शायल कारपोरेशन की तरफ से, गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से और उन दो कनसल्टेन्ट्स की राय से, जिनके नाम बताए गये हैं । इस बारे में फैसला करने में जिन लोगों की जिम्मेदारी है, उन की जिम्मेदारी के बारे में जांच की जायेगी ।

**श्री मधु लिमये :** माननीय सदस्य, श्री देवेन सेन, का प्रश्न यह है कि क्या इस बात की जांच की जायेगी कि विदेशी कम्पनियों के द्वारा, चाहे वे कोयले की हों या तेल की, इन लोगों पर दबाव डाला जाता है, इन्हें खरीदा जाता है ।

**श्री असोक मेहता :** किस बारे में दबाव डाला जाता है ?

**श्री मधु लिमये :** इंडियन शायल कारपोरेशन के अधिकारियों पर पाइप-लाइन की एलाइनमेंट के बारे में दबाव डाला जाता है ।

**श्री असोक मेहता :** यह कहा जाता है कि जहां पाइप-लाइन डाली गई है, अगर वह एलाइनमेंट रहे, तो कोयले को भी काफ़ी ख़तरा रहेगा और पाइप-लाइन को भी ख़तरा रहेगा । हमें यह एक्सपर्ट एडवाइस मिली थी कि ख़तरा नहीं रहेगा । यह मामला कोर्ट के सामने आया और इस पर दोबारा विचार करने के बाद हमने इस एलाइनमेंट को बदलने का फैसला किया । मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि कितने हम पर प्रेशर डाला ।

**Shri P. K. Ghosh:** When does the Government propose to take up this diversion work on this pipeline and when is it expected to be completed

and what is the total amount of railway freight paid by the Indian Oil Corporation during the year 1966-67 in carrying oil and other products which were expected to be carried by this line?

**Shri Raghu Ramaiah:** In February 1966 the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals suggested as a compromise as this matter was pending before the Calcutta High Court that the restricted diversion of the pipeline over the worked leasehold areas might be undertaken within the next two or three years and that the pipeline might be permitted to be operated till then with proper safeguards.

**Shri P. K. Ghosh:** I wanted to know the total amount of railway freight.

**Shri Raghu Ramaiah:** I have not got those figures ready.

**Shri Kartik Oraon:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the alignment of the pipeline passing through coal fields subject to dangerous consequences due to mining subsidence was approved and the possible implication of compensation to be paid to the mining concerns was agreed to by the Government?

**Shri Asoka Mehta:** The expert advice on the basis of which this decision was reached was that there would be no danger to the coal mines and therefore the question of compensation did not arise. Various expert bodies as well as various departments of the Government were consulted and a certain decision was reached. Retrospectively, we feel that the decision was not correct and that is why I am pointing out that this matter is being gone into by an independent commission.

**Shri B. Barua:** The litigation started sometime in 1965. What steps did the Government take in between then and now to remove the difficulties?

**Shri Raghu Ramaiah:** I have already mentioned that in February, 1966, the

suggestion of realignment was made by the Ministry and then put across to them because the matter was before the courts.

**श्री सि० च० झा :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि वह मेरे घाने के पहले का सवाल है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब वे इस विभाग में घाये, उसके कितने बरसों के बाद उनको इस गलती का एहसास हुआ और जब उनको इसका एहसास हुआ तो उसको दूर करने के लिये उन्होंने कौन से कदम जटाये ?

**श्री कर्तिक ओराण :** मैंने सवाल के जवाब में यह कहा था कि यह मामला कोर्ट के सामने होने की वजह से हम चाहते हैं कि इसमें कोई कम्प्रोमाइज किया जाय। कम्प्रोमाइज करने से यह फायदा है कि दोटे समय के लिये उस पाइप लाइन को हम इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं और साब-साब री-एलाइनमेंट भी कर सकते हैं। इसी समय हमने यह भी सोचा कि जो गलती हुई है उस की जांच की जाय। मैंने यही बताया है कि यह फैसला हुआ है और उसके लिये कम्पिटेंट प्रादमी की खोज हुई, कम्पिटेंट प्रादमी हमको मिल गया है और उसने इस जिम्मेदारी को उठाना संजूर कर लिया है।

**Dr. Ramen Sen:** Is it not a fact that when this colossal blunder that cost us so many crores of rupees was detected by the Government, the responsibility of the Secretary to the Petroleum Ministry was so apparent in this total bungling or blunder, or whatever you may call it, that the Government had to appoint this committee in order to shield this activity of the Secretary, Petroleum Ministry, and if that is so why did the Government shield that particular secretary?

**The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Deas):** Sir, may I explain these things because Finance also is involved? When the case came before the court,

the case came up for realignment and it came up for sanctioning two crores more. The whole thing was gone into as to why it has happened like this. It was found that the advice of the chief mining inspector was discarded by the technical experts. It was not brought to the notice of the minister. Sanction was given at that time after doing all that. When it came to the notice of both the Planning Minister and the Finance Minister, we took it up and said: we must go into it fully and whoever is responsible must be properly punished and we must recover the loss from whomsoever we could, wherever we can fix the responsibility. We can do so only after locating the responsibility. We cannot do it otherwise. Therefore, Shri A. K. Roy had been appointed in order to find facts and say whether anybody had a hand in it. That is why Shri Roy had been appointed by the Planning Minister.

**Shri Pilloo Mody:** Does the same law apply to Ministers? We would then be an affluent society.

**Shri Morarji Desai:** It will apply.

**Shri N. E. Laskar:** As the Minister stated just now that the alignment of the pipeline was approved by the Ministry itself, I would like to know whether any reason was advanced for ignoring the mining expert advice.

**Shri Bagha Ramallah:** The Technical Adviser, Bechtel Corporation and the contractor, the Italian firm, disagreed with the views of the mining expert. The mining expert took the view that protective measures were to be given even if it is 100 feet below the surface, but the technical expert said it is not necessary below 100 feet. Similarly, on either side of the pipeline, the technical advice was it would be enough to leave five feet width as the operation did not extend to that area, but a different view was taken by the mining expert. So, there were two views.

**श्री एल० एल० जोशी :** जिन विदेशी कम्पनियों के साथ यह काम करने के लिये और उसकी निगरानी करने के लिये समझौता हुआ, एग्जिट हुआ है, क्या मंत्री महोदय उस एग्जिट को इस सदन के पटल पर रख सकते हैं ?

**श्री अशोक मेहता :** जरूर रख सकते हैं। इस वक़्त मेरे पास नहीं है। लेकिन यह चीज कहना चाहता हूँ कि प्रायल पाइप लाइन का तजुर्बा यूरोप और अमरीका में बहुत ज्यादा है और जैसा बताया गया है कि अमरीकन कम्पनी और इटैलियन कम्पनी दोनों की इस बारे में एक राय थी। वहाँ का तजुर्बा यह रहा है कि कोल माइन्स के अन्दर यानी 100 फुट नीचे कोयला हो, तो उससे कोई खतरा नहीं होता है। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान की हालत हमारे किम्प की है—ऐसी कुछ बात बताई गई, इसी लिये इस मामले में हम अभी जा रहे हैं।

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या श्री राय की जांच सांवेजनिक स्वरूप की राय होगी, क्या उनकी नियुक्ति कमीशन आफ एन्वायरो एक्ट के अन्तर्गत की गई है, क्या उन्हें गवाहों को बुलाने का और फाइलों को देखने का अधिकार होगा ? यदि उनकी नियुक्ति कमीशन आफ एन्वायरो एक्ट के अन्तर्गत नहीं की गई है तो उनकी टर्म ऑफ रेफेन्स क्या है, वे अपनी जांच पूरी तरह से कर सकें, इसके लिये सरकार उन्हें क्या सुविधा देगी ?

**श्री अशोक मेहता :** उन्हें जिन फाइलों की जरूरत होगी, वे उन्हें पेश की जायेंगी, जिनको वे बुलाना चाहेंगे, उनको वे बुला पायेंगे और उनको इस काम के लिये जो सुविधा चाहिये, वह सुविधा उनको दी जायेगी।

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया।

क्या उनकी नियुक्ति कमीशन भाक एन्वयरीय एक्ट के अन्तर्गत हुई है ? अगर ऐसा नहीं होगा तो वे किसको बुलाना चाहेंगे बहु कोर्ट में जाकर स्टे आर्डर ला सकता है । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह डिपार्टमेन्टल एन्वयरी है या पब्लिक एन्वयरी है और इसके टर्मों भाक रेफरेंस क्या हैं ?

जी प्रश्नक नेहता : उन के साथ इसी पर बातचीत हो रही है, उन की राय के मुताबिक सब तय किया जायेगा ।

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Sir, I rise on a point of order, and I seek your protection for one thing. A little while ago, when Mr. Joshi asked whether the Minister would agree to place the agreement with the Bechtel Corporation on the Table of the House, I understood the Minister to say that he has no objection but he has not got the agreement with him or something like that. May we have a clarification on this, and will you kindly direct him specifically to put that agreement on the Table of the House, if not just now, within a day or two?

Shri Asoka Mehta: I said I must go to the office and get the copy. I have not got it with me at this point of time.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

#### Prices of Essential Commodities

- \*213. Shri D. N. Patodia:  
 Shri Onkar Singh:  
 Shri Manbhai J. Patel:  
 Shri Jyothirmoy Basu:  
 Shri D. C. Sharma:  
 Shri Eswara Reddy:  
 Dr. Raneg Sen:  
 Shri Sharda Nand:  
 Shri Bharat Singh:  
 Shri Ranjit Singh:  
 Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:  
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
 Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:  
 Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:  
 Shri Shri Gopal Saboo:

Shri Ram Charan:  
 Shri Hem Raj:  
 Shri R. Barua:  
 Shri Swail:  
 Shri Kikar Singh:  
 Shri Kola Birua:  
 Shri J. B. Singh:  
 Shri B. K. Birla:  
 Shri N. E. Laskar:  
 Dr. Karni Singh:  
 Shri Sadhakar Supakar:  
 Shri Lladhar Kotaki:  
 Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:  
 Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:  
 Shri George Fernandes:  
 Shri J. H. Patel:  
 Shri Madhu Limaye:  
 Shri Virendrakumar Shah:  
 Shri Ploo Mody:  
 Shri Hukam Chand Kachwal:  
 Shri G. S. Mishra:  
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:  
 Shri K. N. Pandey:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been steady rise in the prices of essential commodities during the last three months;

(b) whether any survey in this regard has been made recently;

(c) whether there is any proposal to make a survey once or twice a year to determine rise in the prices of essential commodities so as to devise suitable measures to check the rise; and

(d) the details of the measures taken at present to check rise in prices?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) Prices of a number of food articles and mill cloth have shown a rise over the three months ended May 13, 1967. On the other hand prices of kerosene, handloom cloth, soap, drugs and medicines, matches, and tyres and tubes, have remained stable during the period under review.

(b) and (c). The price situation is kept under continuous review.