

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Actually, it was started taking more students from the third course. You admitted 23 students in the third course. Then, it went on increasing in the fourth, fifth and sixth courses. I would like to know how much time was wasted of the students because more students were admitted and it created a lot of problems? I would like to know how many students had to waste how many days and as on date whether they have completed their course. Secondly, about the helicopter course, all the students have lost their days. So, when did you start the course? Because of non-availability of the helicopters, you could not complete it. So, my question is how much time of the students was wasted in that course.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have the details in respect of the number of days wasted?

SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK: Sir, I do not have the details. I will send the details to the hon. Member.

Gandhar Power Project

*853. **SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:**
SHRI ANIL BASU:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi dated the April 8, 1992 in regard to award of contract for proposed 615 MW Gandhar Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for awarding the con-

tract to a foreign company instead to the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The news item tended to create an impression that there had been undue haste in the award of contract, that due care was not taken in selecting Asea Brown Boveri (ABB) Gas Turbines and that the power plant may not operate for one year from the date of commissioning for want of gas. The aspects brought out in the news item were not based on facts and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has clarified these issues to the media in a specific Press meet and clarifications were also published in the media thereafter.

(c) The Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) did not submit any offer in response to the "Invitation to Bid" for the Main Plant Equipment Package under International Competitive Bidding, even though they were qualified. All the proposals received were from foreign companies, so the question of awarding/not awarding the contract to BHEL does not arise. BHEL, however, was a partner in the Consortium led by M/s Nissolwai Corporation of Japan which could not be awarded the contract as they were not the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bidder.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the statement of the hon. Minister, but I have not been able to find the reply of any of the points which have come up during the countrywide discussion on this project for the last several

days. Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the time is short I would like to ask just two most important questions. May first question is whether it is not fact that the Ministry of Industry had sent a written memorandum to your Ministry proposing to guard the contract in favour of BHEL rather than awarding it to the company which has now been entrusted this work.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Gandhar Project is based on the OECF funding. Disposal of tenders in this case is also in accordance to the rules and regulations of the OECF itself. OECF funds were received in 1992. There was a bid for it in 1991 which was followed by another bid in 1992.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is a specific one. All these things are in the knowledge of everybody. Extensive discussion has taken place on this subject. I am challenging what the hon. Minister has submitted just now. I have got with me a letter by the Chairman of ABB in which he says.

[English]

"This is the largest single rupee project that we have been able to secure in India."

[Translation]

Rupee component of the project that has been awarded to ABB comes to about Rs. 210 crores. The letter of the Chairman of that company has mentioned it. Contrary to it, the hon. Minister says that the project is being financed by the foreign agency.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have submitted that according to the rules of the OECF, contract will be given to the lowest bidder. So far as BHEL is concerned, we would give priority to it if its quotation is lowest. It is the duty of the Government to give priority to the BHEL.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister has no relevance with the question I have asked him. It would have been better, if the question had not been raised. In that case, he would also not have given an incomplete reply. Mr. Speaker, Sir, please find a solution to it. Hold a half-an-hour discussion on this issue... (Interruptions)

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: I have replied to the question that has been asked here. I have stated that they had not given the lowest quotation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Direct Dialling Facility to Foreign Countries

*842. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign countries to which direct dialling facility is available at present;

(b) whether this facility is being further extended to some more countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Sir, direct dialling facility to 226 countries is available at present. The names of the countries are given in the