

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is permitted

SHRI P UPENDRA The question is about the Radio and TV programmes on the national Channel late in the night I cannot expand the scope of the question I will discuss the matter with the hon Member

[*Translation*]

SHRINAND KUMAR SAI Mr Speaker, Sir, just now an hon Member has said that the midnight programmes cause disturbance to children I would like to know from hon Minister, through you, whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to suspend telecast well before midnight?

SHRI P UPENDRA Mr Speaker Sir there is normal telecast till 11 10 p m There after programmes on national channel are telecast for particular people and they create no disturbance at all

DR SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA Mr Speaker Sir I would like to know from the hon Minister whether any complaints have been received from the viewers about the ill effect of mid night programmes on their family life, health and moral conduct I would also like to know for whose interests these midnight programmes are being tele cast? It has been stated by the hon Minister that very few people watch these programme Was any survey undertaken to know the ill effects of the programmes on the viewers?

SHRI P UPENDRA The effect has been good only

[*English*]

Sir, as we all know the scientists have established that cows give more milk when they listen to the music and here also the students nowadays listen to the pop music through their ears and they go on studying I don't think there is any disturbance and whatever feed back we got it is entirely in favour of the people

[*Translation*]

SHRI R N RAKESH Mr Speaker, Sir, next year, we are going to celebrate birth centenary of Dr Ambedkar I would like to know whether Doordarshan has prepared any programme on the life and work of Dr B R Ambedkar to telecast over Doordarshan for the whole year

[*English*]

SHRI P UPENDRA Sir, though the question is a little off the mark, I will answer it because it relates to Dr Ambedkar whom we all respect This Centenary has started on the 14th April and we had a special programme on that day both on the Radio and the Television and we have planned a number of programmes for the entire year and also we are trying to produce special films on Dr Ambedkar through the Films Division during the year

Export of Iron Ore to South Korea by MMTC

*537 **SHRI LOKANATH CHAUDHURY** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation propose to export iron ore to South Korea through Paradeep Port and

(b) if so the details of the plan including the estimated tonnage of export and when it will be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

(a) Yes Sir

(b) MMTC is persuading the South Korean buyers to resume off-take of iron Ore from Paradip to meet their additional re

quirements. M/s. Hyundai Corporation of South Korea has prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for development of Paradip Port to accommodate large vessels of 1,70,000 DWT to handle 6 million tonnes per annum of Iron Ore for export from Paradip.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know about one thing. Three years back this project report was prepared. It has three components. One was the development of Paradeep Port. The second component was to develop the mines and the third component was the construction of railway line from Banspani to Paradeep. So, I want to know, when the preliminary discussions were held, if the MMTC was agreeable to give funds for the construction of railway line and also for the development of mines. If it has given the consent, why it has gone back on its promise?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, the hon. Member is right. A detailed project report was prepared by one Koreal Corporation. Hyundai Corporation, and regarding the feasibility reports of other sector, a detailed project report was submitted and this report is under examination in the Ministry of Surface Transport. The various issues requiring investment decision on the different sectors have been identified and the same is to be discussed with the Finance Ministry. Final investment decisions of the Government are yet to be taken. If once a decision is taken about the investment, then it will take three months to complete the project from the date of sanction.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, the project was to be implemented in 1986. But then when the MMTC sponsored it, China was not on the scene. Now China is also proposing to export iron ore. It is the MMTC which has gone back on its terms to bear part of the cost of the railway construction which was decided in the Meeting. I want to know about this from the Minister. The construction of railway line from Banspani to Paradeep will reduce the freight cost by more than 50 per cent. Since it is not being done, we are not able to utilise the mines of

Bihar and Orissa region for exporting ore. When export is being given prominence now-a-days, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the MMTC will take initiative to have the railway line constructed as early as possible, which they have promised to do.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, basically the job of MMTC is to export iron ore to various countries and the project to which the hon. Member has referred, involves development of mines which is to be undertaken by the Orissa Government and development of the port which comes under the Ministry of Surface Transport. The construction of railway line from Banspani to Daitari for a distance of about 147 kms. will be undertaken by the Railway Ministry. MMTC is the agency which is basically responsible for the export of iron ore and we are facing difficulty in the export of iron ore because of the lack of facilities at the Cuttack airport. So, the MMTC has already taken up this matter. As I stated earlier, the detailed project report which was prepared by M/s. Hyundai Corporation is under consideration of the Ministry of Surface Transport and a final decision on investment will be taken in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, as the hon. Minister has stated, the mining development work pertains to the State Government, the railway line construction pertains to the Ministry of Railways, port development pertains to the Ministry of Surface Transport and the rest is for the Commerce Ministry to export the iron ore. For export purpose only, the MMTC gave a proposal in the year 1986 and this is pending before the Surface Transport Ministry. M/s. Hyundai Corporation also gave a proposal for the total project including the railway line development between Banspani and Paradeep, port development and the mining development. The total project is still pending before the Surface Transport Ministry. I want to know whether there is any other proposal from other Korean companies and why the Surface Transport Ministry is silent about the project. When Mr. Raghavan was the Chairman of MMTC, the present Prime Minister,

when he was Finance Minister, initiated this project. May I know from the Minister whether there is any other proposal pending before the Surface Transport Ministry? I also want to know from the hon. Minister who is now answering on behalf of the Commerce Minister, whether the Commerce Ministry will take care to coordinate the whole thing to clear this project immediately.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, the Commerce Ministry is not aware of any other proposal. In fact, I have the information that no other proposal has come to the MMTC or the Ministry of Commerce and as I stated earlier, the project involves an expenditure of Rs. 776 crores. The matter is under consideration and a decision will be taken by the concerned agency as early as possible.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, I would like to point out that our rich natural resources like iron ore can be used for conversion into steel which is highly needed in this country and in Orissa itself a project is pending.

Sir, I would like to know whether the Government would seriously give a thought to the proposal for utilising our rich natural resources for conversion into value-added products like steel and down-stream industry. Even today the per capita availability of steel in our country is one of the lowest in the world, i.e. 16 kg., in spite of all our development. I would like to know whether this Government at least, will seriously apply its mind to this whole issue of whether we should export iron ore and earn hardly about Rs. 600 worth foreign exchange—two tonnes of iron ore is equivalent to one tonne of steel. Will the Minister of Commerce see from commercial point of view what is more advantageous to us? If at all, you want to export, why do you not convert the iron ore into steel and export it so that you earn foreign exchange worth Rs. 4,000/- per tonne of steel. What is the attitude of the Government? Are we going to drain away to South Korea and China all our natural resources? What is the approach of this Government?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: There is a lot of merit in what the hon. Member, Shri Vasant Sathe has said. But he is aware of these decisions, keeping in view the availability of resources. This question basically concerns the export of iron ore whereas the question which the hon. Member has raised concerns the Ministry of Steel.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: If you cannot answer, do not answer it. It will not be fair to the House.

[Translation]

If it concerns the Department of Steel, let him say that they will reply to it.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): He has said the same thing.

MR. SPEAKER: You will get the reply. Please listen to him.

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: I have said that this question basically concerns the development of Paradeep Port so that iron ore can be exported from that port. I have said that the point which the hon. Member has made has a lot of merit. The suggestion which he has made, I will pass it on to the hon. Minister of Steel and Mines so that necessary action can be taken.

Export of Iron Ore to China

*538. **SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to export iron ore to China on a long term basis;
- (b) if so, whether the MMTC has received any proposal from China in that regard; and
- (c) the decision taken by Government thereon?