

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA
 You never applied that against those who have been found guilty of economic offence.

Therefore, I would submit that if the Government wants to do that that is if they want to strengthen this by a constitutional amendment, we would support that. But, we cannot support this because this measure is bound to be used against the main political opponents. This is only meant for them. This is not meant against the smuggler. This is meant only against your political opponents. They have become so insensitive to public opinion that they have not even made any safeguard against the honest and innocent persons. Is there any safeguard for this? As has been pointed out by the hon Member, Shri Mavalankar quoting from the editorial of the *Hindu*, if any person—if Shri Vajpayee or Shri Shyamnandan Mishra—is dubbed as a smuggler, if I go out of the House, what might happen I know. We have brought to light so many instances of corruption. That is on the basis of their own documents. This Government could not act on it. That is why this confrontation. And therefore we suspect that they are going to use this measure against us and nobody else.

PROF NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) Sir, it is very unfortunate that a very important measure like the one that is being brought before the House should have been given a political colouring by the friends opposite.

Sir on the one hand they complain that all these 27 years smuggling has gone on and, on the other hand their complaint is that they themselves are going to be arrested under MISA. This is a very funny situation in which they are and they are not ready even to implement this Order which was passed on the 27th September, 1974.

MR. CHAIRMAN The hon Member will continue tomorrow.

17 29 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

SHIFTING OF RATNAGIRI PROJECT FROM MAHARASHTRA TO GUJARAT

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) Mr Chairman Sir, in the course of the last one year and more, I tried to seek a categorical assurance from the Government regarding the public sector aluminium project at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra. I may draw the attention of the House to the fact that on November 15 1973 on March 7, 1974 on April 18 1974 on August 22, 1974 on November 14 1974 and on November 20 1974 I asked Starred as well as Unstarred questions. The people in Maharashtra could not be put to any uncertainty about the aluminium project that is about to be set up in Ratnagiri which is an economically backward region of Maharashtra.

At the very outset I would like to seek information from our Minister regarding certain factual data that is connected with the progress of the work of the aluminium project. The estimated cost of this project is Rs 78.8 crores. This is the information that I have sought through one of the unstarred questions.

Though the net estimated cost is Rs 78.8 crores Government has sanctioned Rs 50 crores for the period of the Fifth Plan and they had assured us earlier that with this expenditure being incurred on the project by the beginning of the Sixth Five Year Plan the work on the Aluminium project, public sector project at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra will be completed. But Sir in spite of this amount which has been sanctioned the actual amount which has been made available for 1974-75 is only Rs one crore. For the entire Fifth Plan the amount sanctioned is Rs 50 crores. For 1974-75 this is only Rs one crore. By mathematical calculations, I do not know whether it would take 50 years for the

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

Government to complete this public sector project at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra. So, I would like to know, out of this Rs. one crore....

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA (Giridih): This is geometrical proportion.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I would be very happy if they progress by geometrical proportions. But, they are actually moving in the opposite direction by geometrical retardation.

I would like to know what would be the amount that would be made available for the implementation of the project and we would like to have an assurance as to what will be the time bound nature of the public sector project in this backward region of Konkan. I would like to have categorical assurances on some other points as well.

Sir, the recent thinking in the Planning Commission has been that after they have sanctioned certain projects and cleared certain projects, if due to various economic constraints, the cost of various projects go up, they might be required to drop certain projects. News items have appeared in this particular manner on a number of occasions. Therefore, the people in the Konkan region of Maharashtra would like to know that though at present the estimated cost of the project is Rs. 78.8 crores, if due to rise in prices of raw materials and other commodities and other expenditure to be incurred, the cost of the project goes up beyond the estimated cost of Rs. 78.8 crores, will the Planning Commission give an assurance that under no circumstances they will give up the project on the ground that the cost of the project is going up.

Sir, then, there is an important aspect which has developed quite recently. This is after the agreement

which has been arrived at by the Government of India with the Government of Iran. Government of Iran has entered into an agreement with the Indian Government and we have assured them that we will be prepared to give them, we will be prepared to export from India 300,000 tonnes of Alumina, that is, three lakh tonnes of alumina will be exported from India to Iran. They have also assured us that they will give us the finance that is needed for the construction work on the Aluminium project and that will be available to us in hard currency. This is the agreement which has been arrived at. I would like to know specifically from the Minister how is it that the new proposal has come up? We would welcome this aid that is being offered by Iran. But, already one project in the backward area of Maharashtra is under implementation. Already, certain amount has been sanctioned and we are repeatedly told by the Government—I have been informed only yesterday by our Minister who is going to reply to this debate—that at the moment there are difficulties and they will have to find out as to how the funds can be arranged. So, with these difficulties mounting up and with already one project under implementation, whenever foreign aid is made available and whenever foreign assistance is made available, why is it that that assistance is not being diverted to this scheme which has already been launched? Already, land has been acquired. Already, necessary arrangements for bringing bauxite from various regions in Kolhapur have been made. Already, arrangements for building up of certain roads have been made. Already, necessary arrangements for power supply have been made. When all the necessary infrastructure is being built up, why is it that the foreign aid that is being offered is not diverted first for completing the project in Ratnagiri? Sir, I have full respect for my sister State of Gujarat. I do not want merely the development of Maharashtra. If Maharashtra is developed and the rest of the country is ruined,

then Maharashtra cannot survive like an oasis in a desert. I want the development of Gujarat also. But, when foreign assistance is made available, you must have certain priorities. When one project is already on a way, it is better that that aid which is going to be made available by Iran is made available at first for setting up of the project at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra.

Reports have appeared in the Press that Soviet Russia is also prepared to give some assistance for alumina plant in India. It has neither been confirmed nor denied. Even if that assistance is available I suggest that priority should be given to the completion of Ratnagiri project. I have full sympathy as for the people of Gujarat. I wonder why at this particular moment they are trying to divert aid coming from Iran to Gujarat. In the agreement nowhere is it stated by the Iranian Government that they are interested in getting alumina from India from a project in Gujarat. They are only concerned with 300 thousand tonnes of alumina. It comes to our mind that probably because the assembly elections are coming up in Gujarat they want to show some developmental activities.

When in some constituencies developmental activities were undertaken only on the eve of the elections, the question whether it constituted a corrupt practices went to the Orissa High Court which in its judgement said;

"Large scale developmental activities undertaken on the eve of elections may not constitute a corrupt practices according to the existing election law. But they do constitute an evil practice and there is only a thin line of demarcation between corrupt and evil practices."

I do not want to attribute any motives and I would be happy if the motivation behind the setting of this plant in Gujarat is not political.

I shall pass on some figures to the hon. Minister and those have been collected by the experts. The question is: What is the advantage if the project is set up in Ratnagiri in preference to Gujarat. If the bauxite deposits are to be brought from Dangurwadi and Ud giri which are the two adjoining areas in Kholapur, the transport expenditure is likely to be Rs. 17 per tonne. On the other hand if you try to have similar project at Kandla in Gujarat for which bauxite will have to be taken from Kuch the transport expenditure will be Rs. 62 per tonne. Therefore if you have this project at Ratnagiri you will be saving Rs. 45 per tonne and if you take the entire 300 thousand tonnes the total amount that will be saved, will be to the tune of Rs. 378 lakhs.

In addition to that, for manufacturing aluminium or alumina you require caustic soda. If you have a project in Gujarat, you will have to bring in caustic soda from Bombay. But if you have it at Ratnagiri, you can meet the caustic soda requirement from a project in Ratnagiri itself; the Konkan Development Corporation has a caustic soda plant in Ratnagiri. That also will be a profitable proposition.

There is an expert opinion. The Technical Adviser of BALCO through his letter dated 20th January 1970 addressed to NIDC while offering detailed feasibility report for 200,000 tonnes per annum export oriented Gujarat Alumina Plant, has recommended that priority should be given to the 3,50,000 tonne alumina plant at Ratnagiri.

In conclusion, I plead with the Government to divert the Iran and Soviet assistance at this stage to Maharashtra to complete the Ratnagiri project and then you can take up the Gujarat project. I would like to have an assurance on three or four points. Though the amount sanctioned in the fifth plan is Rs. 50 crores, what will be the actual amount that will be made available immediately? What is the time-limit

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before which the plant will be completed? Will the foreign assistance available be diverted at this stage to the Ratnagiri project? Lastly will you not take note of the fact that the building of the aluminium project in Ratnagiri which is a backward district of Konkan is an infrastructure demand for developing the backward area of Konkan? When the people of Maharashtra Kerala Mysore and Goa have been demanding the West Coast Railway when the feasibility report was submitted to the Railway Ministry we said that if in Ratnagiri we are able to have an aluminium plant and a caustic soda plant we would be able to offer goods traffic to the railway and in addition to that it will help in building all weather ports and that will ultimately build up the infrastructure for the development of Konkan region. If this project collapses the West Coast Railway will go to dogs. All-weather port will not be developed. As a result the backward region of Konkan will not develop. I will conclude by demanding a specific assurance. Please tell us definitely before which date this project will be completed.

SHRI P G MAVALANKAR
(Ahmedabad) On a point of order Sir The half-an-hour discussion is based on the Unstarred Question 473 on 14th November. The question I asked was

(a) Whether the Bharat Aluminium Corporation has decided to shift the Ratnagiri project from Maharashtra to Gujarat

(c) and if so the reasons for shifting the project 'etc

The answer given was

(a) No Sir it is not shifted from Ratnagiri to Gujarat

(c) Does not arise"

My point of order is that on the basis of this answer there could be no half an hour discussion. Of course he has been speaking with regard to some other later agreements arrived at between the Government of India and the Government of India involving another project. I want to know whether that particular agreement means that this aluminium project in Ratnagiri is being shifted to Gujarat. I am not raising any question implication or doubt. I am just trying to understand the discussion. This half an hour discussion arises out of the answer given on the 14th November. The answer says "No Sir" and "Does not arise". Then how does this discussion arise? This is my difficulty. I am not at all worried about the merits of the matter.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE Sir if you go through the conventions that are observed in this House even though only one particular aspect is touched in the question when the supplementaries come up very often all the problems related to the project also come up. It is true that he has given an assurance that there would not be any shifting of the project. But there is a fear in the minds of the people of Maharashtra (Interruptions) which is expressed vocally. I have a letter sent to me yesterday by the Minister wherein he says that probably funds are not available. Now if funds are not indigenously available here in India if funds are available from outside and those funds are going to be diverted to Gujarat then by default this project will collapse. Therefore in effect it will mean that this project will lapse and some other project will come up through the backdoor. That is how I am interpreting it.

MR CHAIRMAN Rule 55, which deals with half an hour discussion, says

"The Speaker shall allot half an hour for raising discussion on a

matter of sufficient public importance which has been the subject of a recent question"

—it need not be limited to the ambit of the question—

"oral or written and the answer to which needs elucidation on a matter of fact"

The Speaker in his discretion has permitted the Half an Hour Discussion and it will be wrong to raise a point of order why the Speaker allowed the half an hour discussion which in fact was what he was trying to say

SHRI P G MAVALANKAR I never suggested that I only ask how this half an hour discussion arises out of this question

MR CHAIRMAN Therefore there is no point of order

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री : (पटना) :
 महापति जी, मैं सरकारी क्षेत्र में जो ग्लामिनिरि मैं एल्यूमिनियम का प्रोजेक्ट बन रहा है उस का स्वागत करता हूँ। इसमें इंडियाको के मालि- बिबला जो एल्यूमिनियम के खानों को लेकर देश को लूट रहे हैं और सरकार को भी धोखा दे रहे हैं उस से बचने का मौका मिलेगा। इस पृष्ठ भूमि में मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो रत्नागिरि प्रोजेक्ट की स्थापना हो रही है इसमें अब तक कुरुवितनी धनराशि खर्च की जा चुकी है ? इस कारखाने की उत्पादन क्षमता क्या होगी ? इस कारखाने में काम करने वाले मजदूरों की कुल संख्या कितनी है और क्या यह बात सच है कि वहाँ के मजदूरों को सरकारी कारखाने में काम करने वाले मजदूरों की तरह तमाम सुविधाएँ उपलब्ध नहीं हैं ? और ऐसी बात है तो क्या ?

आखीरी बात मैं मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बात सच है कि रत्नागिरि

की योजना में किसी प्रकार का खलल डाले बिना गुजरात में भी कोई एल्यूमिनियम का प्रोजेक्ट बनाने का प्रश्न सरकार के सामने विचारणीय है ? अगर है तो उस का व्यौरा क्या है और उस के सिलसिले में सरकार ने कोई प्रतिबन्ध फैसला किया है या नहीं ?

श्री मधु लिमये . सभापति महोदय, श्री दण्डवते जी ने इस विषय के सभी पहलुओं को बहुत विस्तार से ध्यान खूबी से आप के सामने रखा है। मेरे गुजरात के मित्र उत्तेजित हो गए।

श्री पी० जी० भावलंकर : उत्तेजित नहीं हुए। गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र दोनों मेरे प्रांत हैं। मैं तो दोनों को चाहता हूँ।... (व्यवधान) ...

सभापति महोदय आप और ज्यादा उत्तेजित मत कराइए।

श्री मधु लिमये मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि इस प्रश्न पर उत्तेजित होने की जरूरत नहीं है क्योंकि मुझे डर लग रहा है कि कहीं दोनों को बेवकूफ तो बनाने का सरकार का इरादा नहीं है। जो मेरी जानकारों है वह मैं आप के सामने रख रहा हूँ कि महाराष्ट्र में चर्चा करे कि महाराष्ट्र में रहेगा और नटवर साहब पटेल को खुश करने के लिए उन्हें बिना गुजरात में रहेगा।

श्री एम० रामवीरपाल वैद्य (बिजामबाद) गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र का झगडा हो रहा है तो क्रान्ध में ट्रांस्फर कर दीजिए।

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA Bihar is the best place There are large bauxite deposits in Bihar

श्री रामाक्षर शास्त्री : गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र दोनों में होना चाहिए ।

श्री मधु सिन्धे : अब आप मुझे भाग चलने दीजिए ।

मुझे यह डर इस लिए लग रहा है क्योंकि विगत चार वर्षों से मैं देख रहा हूँ कि औद्योगीकरण की प्रक्रिया लगभग ध्वस्त हो चुकी है और इसलिए आप विभिन्न सुवर्णों को लड़ाते हैं और कोई स्पष्ट नीति नहीं बनाते हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश के चुनाव के पहले कितने संघर्षों का आप ने शिलान्यास किया और कितने प्रकल्पों को आप वास्तविक कर रहे हैं ? तो मैं सीधा सवाल मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र को लड़ाकर कुछ भी न करने की सरकार की मंशा है या कुछ करने की मंशा है ? अगर करने की मंशा है तो इस सुझाव पर मंत्री महोदय विचार करें कि पब्लिक सेक्टर में, अन्तगत उपभोग, इंटरनल कंजम्पशन के लिए कारखाना महाराष्ट्र में बनाने का फैसला किया है तो उस को पूरा किया जाय और एक्सपट ऑरिएण्टेड कारखाना बनाना है तो आप गुजरात में बनाइए, शगड़ा खत्म हो जाता है ।

इस्पात और आलुमिनीय (श्री चन्द्रशेखर सावब) : यही तो कर रहे हैं ।

श्री मधु सिन्धे : नहीं कह रहे हैं । उन्होंने जो आंकड़े दिए हैं—78 करोड़ का प्रोजेक्ट है और उस के लिए आप एक साल में एक करोड़ रुपये का आउटले कर रहे हैं । आप ने कहा कि पांचवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में 50 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करेंगे, तो उन्होंने कहा कि एक करोड़ इस साल में हुआ तो 5 साल में 50 करोड़ रुपया आप लगा पाएँगे ? आप झूठ क्यों बोल रहे हैं ? (अपवाह) ... राम गोपाल रेड्डी

इस बारे में क्या जानते हैं, वह क्यों जवाब दे रहे हैं मेरे प्रश्नों का ? श्री दण्डवते जी ने प्रश्न उठाया है उस से आप का कहना कि बसिंग नहीं लगता है । आप हम को कबिस कीजिए कि 78 करोड़ का प्रोजेक्ट एक पंचवर्षीय योजना में आप 50 करोड़ खर्च करने वाले हैं और इस साल पहले वर्ष में केवल एक करोड़ खर्च कर रहे हैं, इस तरह से यह बनेगा ? उस की तफसील कि आज तक इस बारे में कितना काम हुआ है यह जानकारी भी आप दें और गुजरात महाराष्ट्र के शगड़े को आप ए-दम खत्म कर दें ।

SHRI DHAMANKAR (Bhiwandi): Before posing any question, I would like to place before you the background....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not do that. Only ask your questions.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: I would not take much time. Giving a little of the background is necessary because it is a very backward area, a hilly tract and its entire economy is not horticultural or agricultural, but it is a money-order economy as the young men and women of Konkan working in different fields in Bombay send money orders to their families and that is how they survive. When high hopes were raised of having a public sector aluminium project there, the people of Konkan felt very happy that they would now get employment in their own land and also the economic development of Konkan will be speeded up. But since the last one year or so, so many questions, starred and unstarred, were asked and replies were given. Still there is a feeling in the minds of the Konkan people that this aluminium project may be shelved.

I might point out for your information that an Action Committee of the

Konkan people has been formed in Bombay. They have made a representation to the Prime Minister requesting her to not to shelve this project and not to delay this project. Otherwise, there will be an agitation in Konkan and there will be agitation in Bombay. They have openly accused the administrative officers, the bureaucrats and the technocrats of this BALCO that they want to shelve this project and take it somewhere else.

Rs. 1 crore has been sanctioned. I would like to know how much of it has been spent there. The officers do not stay there. Sometime ago Nagpur was chosen as their residential office but the office is still in Delhi while the project is in the far-flung Ratnagiri, a hilly tract and backward area. So, there is a feeling that this project will be shelved and that ultimately it may not come up. If this project comes up, other infrastructure facilities may come up and the hopes of the Konkan people will be realised.

Under the circumstances, I will pose some questions to the hon. Minister.

Would the Government seriously consider rephasing the commissioning of the project in a manner that it will yield positive benefits in the economy in the Fifth Five Year Plan itself to the Konkan area?

Is it a fact that the Public Investments Board has recommended that the entire expenditure of Rs. 78.8 crores proposed for this project should be provided in the Fifth Plan itself?

Thirdly, is it a fact that the Government of Maharashtra has made available all facilities like land, water, electricity, coal, etc. and whether the Government of Maharashtra had requested the Central Government that they would like to have the foundation-stone laid for the project on the 14th November, Jawaharlal Nehru's birth anniversary?

Finally, I would request the hon. Minister to see that the fears in the minds of the people of this backward area are removed and their hope of getting this project realised.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO (Koraput): Now it is clear that there is no doubt about this aluminium project coming up in Ratnagiri. But I would like to put two or three questions regarding the project.

18.00 hrs.

Now, one hon. Member has asked this, what not start an aluminium factory in Gujarat, Bihar, Bengal, like that. This is dependent upon the raw material availability in the area, bauxite etc. There are a number of States where bauxite is available. Instead of asking this to be started in every State, Government should start industries where this bauxite is available and that will be the most correct step in this direction. That is the main question which I would put before the Government. There are a number of projects in India and due to such projects number of persons have been displaced and so on. Will the Government view it as a social problem and deal with it accordingly and will they start programmes by which these displaced persons will be properly rehabilitated, I would like to know. There is another point which I would like to ask. There is report that due to various projects, roads etc. the available irrigated land is decreasing and production of foodgrains is decreasing. Our cultivable land becomes less and less. Is the Government proposing to give the facilities to these people, giving land for cultivation to the people who will be replaced in the area when the aluminium project comes up, will they see that the people replaced from the area by such projects are properly rehabilitated? These are my questions, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad that this question has been raised today. Many hon. Members of this House have been earlier also raising questions regarding the position of this Ratnagiri Aluminium Plant. As the hon. Member has made it very clear in one of the recent unstarred question it was made categorically clear that there is no question of Ratnagiri plant being shifted to Gujarat or any other place. I thought this answer would satisfy those who are unnecessarily agitated over certain baseless news. Mr. Dandavate has said in his explanatory note that in view of the recent decision of Government to set up aluminium project at Gujarat with the assistance of Iran there is the widespread feeling in Maharashtra that the Aluminium project in backward Ratnagiri of Maharashtra would be given up. He said there has been widespread discontent among people on this issue and people felt that under pretext that the cost of the aluminium at Ratnagiri is likely to increase, the project might be given up. And thirdly he said about misdeeds of the officials of Bharat Aluminium company which has to set up the project at Ratnagiri which has to set up the project has created suspicion in the minds of the people. I make it clear that there is no question of shifting Ratnagiri plant.

This plant has been envisaged taking into account our indigenous needs and requirements and provision had been made in the Fifth Five-year Plan.

An amount of Rs. 50 crores has been provided for this in the Fifth Five year plan. Already we have spent about Rs. 1.50 crores. This scheme was sanctioned during last April.

Therefore, there should be no agitation in your mind. Government approved the Ratnagiri project in

April, 1974 at an estimated cost of Rs. 76.28 crores. We have already spent Rs 1.50 crores. Rs. 73 lakhs have been given to the consultants and Rs. 20 lakhs have been paid as compensation for the land acquired. We have acquired 314 acres of land. We have also set-up a site office at Ratnagiri. We have one chief engineer at Bombay. We have an office at Delhi. So, all aspects of this plant were taken care of.

I would like to make it very clear that the Members should not give this impression as, unfortunately, there is some confusion in one section of the people in Maharashtra there should not be another suspicion created in Gujarat that Gujarat plant is to be shifted to Ratnagiri. In a country like ours there are requirements of people and we have to set-up at the same time different plants in different parts of the country. Ratnagiri plant should not be confused with Gujarat plant. Ratnagiri plant is meant for our indigenous consumption. It is a part of our Fifth Five Year Plan. Money has been allocated and we have allotted Rs. 1 crore. It is a fact that we have been able to spend Rs 1 crore. It is not necessary that we divide the money equally each year. Suppose this plant has to be completed in five years the entire money will not be divided equally for five years. In the first year for any plant the money needed is for consultancy work, levelling of the site and for opening of site office, etc. So, a minor amount is required

श्री मधु लिखते : थाप केव न इतना बत्ता दीजिये-गुजरात का प्लान्ट और रत्नागिरी का प्लान्ट तब तक पूरा होगा, उस की स्टेन्ड बखला दी जिये ।

श्री चन्द्रजीत दादव : बबरादये नहीं, मैं सब बतला दूंगा मधु जी, थाप को पूरी खूबना नहीं है ।

These are two different plants. Neither we are going to shift Ratnagiri plant to Gujarat nor are we

going to give up Gujarat plant for Ratnagiri.

As the House is aware, the question is that our country is facing great financial restraint. Because of this financial restraint we have not been able to complete according to schedule many of the schemes which have been made but we are trying our best. Particularly, those areas which are backward and those items which are priority-issue items we are giving them first consideration.

Some hon. Member had said that BALCO is creating difficulties and suspicion. I would like to say for your information that BALCO is very keen. Their difficulty is until and unless they are assured of the entire money which they have to spend because we have already got Rs. 1 crore and if we spend it today it will be consumed for only levelling of land and do not get the money for the second and the third year this whole money will be washed away.

We will have to spend again for this purpose. Only to-day I had a discussion with our Finance Minister about this plant and he has also assured me that we shall take up this issue with the Planning Commission and shall see how we are able to find resources for this plant. The question is that it will be delayed.

For your information I would like to say that this plant as envisaged originally is likely to be of the order of Rs. 76 and odd crores. The revised estimate for this is Rs. 100 crores. That is our difficulty. The prices are rising; difficulties are there. We are also interested very much that we should complete this plant as quickly as possible. Therefore, I would like to assure the Members that we are committed to this plant. We are not going to give this up. We shall try our best to find out resources and we shall phase out in a manner so that we complete this plant in five years. I am not saying that by the

end of the fifth year we shall be able to complete it. Please understand me. I would not like to make any commitment on the floor of the House which will prove later on to be not a correct thing. We are trying our best; we are interested to complete this as quickly as possible. We shall find resources quickly and see that the work is started so that the people of Ratnagiri should not be disappointed.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Patan): I would like to know whether the Gujarat plant will be completed within five years.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: So far as Gujarat plant is concerned, it is, really speaking, an export-oriented plant. It is not an aluminium plant. Ratnagiri Plant is an aluminium plant. Gujarat Plant will be able to produce 3 lakhs tonnes of alumina meant for exports which we have committed to Iran. We are negotiating with them. Still a settlement has not been reached. We are very much hopeful that we will have a favourable settlement. We will be able to export the production of Gujarat Plant to Iran. Iran is also interested in financing that plant. Therefore these two are separate schemes. There should be no confusion about these two schemes and both of them should not be mixed up. We shall see that these schemes go through. Another thing is this.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Excuse me for my interruption. I welcome that you mentioned this. But, what about the Soviet assistance that is sought to be made available because, there was a news in the papers that the Soviet Union is likely to give assistance to the aluminium plant.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Mr. Dandavate, actually many countries are negotiating with us. You must have also seen the newspaper reports

[Shri Chandrajit Yadav]

that there are many joint venture firms. Negotiations are going on; agreements have been made. There are different requirements for the different projects for which those negotiations are going on.

So far as this plant is concerned, I have told you that in our Fifth Plan we will find resources—where and how to find them will be seriously looked into. You can assure the people in your own State that the Government is committed to this plant. Government is not going back upon this plant. There should be no confusion about this. You should not mix up this plant with the Gujarat Plant. Otherwise, the people of Gujarat may be confused that this is going to be shifted from there to Maharashtra.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: We can assure our people. We are sure that you will not let us down.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I can assure you that we shall not let you down. Prof Dandavate raised the question of the backwardness of Ratnagiri. It is not very advantageous to have an aluminium plant in Ratnagiri.

There were also many difficulties. After all, in a democratic set up, many things have to be done. Profit is not the only motive. As my friend was very rightly saying the entire bauxite is available in Kolhapur. But, the plant will be in Ratnagiri. Mr. Shastri raised certain questions. He has asked whether the workers in this plant are being treated equally, on par with the employees in the other public sector plants. There is no factory now. There is no plant there, and therefore, there is no question of workers being there. It is his misunderstanding that workers are not being treated equally. He has also put a query as to how many people

will be employed in this plant. At this stage, I can only say...

SHRI P. M MEHTA (Bhavnagar): The question is, in regard to the draughtsmen and other technical people, will you employ them on a regular basis or on daily wages or on casual basis?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: So far as the question of employment is concerned, at this stage, I can only say that our estimate is that about 3500 people will be employed in this plant, if the project comes through.

श्री मधु लिमये मुझे डर है कि कहीं गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र के लोगों का बेवकूफ न बनाने। दोनों को करिये।

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Mr. Madhu Limaye, I have a great regard for you. I know that you are a very clever person. But, don't try to be clever between these two States and create a fight among themselves.

The difficulty is that, you always look at everything with suspicion. Sometimes, your mind should be free from suspicion also.

Sir, some other questions have also been raised. Questions have been raised about rehabilitation. I would say that really speaking, whenever public sector plants come into existence, it has always been the policy of the Government to take into consideration the displaced persons. In most of our plants, we give priority to them. We have made it a rule that one member from each displaced family, will be given employment. Over and above that, we have always given very sympathetic consideration to those persons who have been displaced, while giving employment.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATACHARYYA: May I ask one question? Between new plants and the expansion of existing plants, in the interest of cost effectiveness, why

should you not go in for expansion of the existing plants? As between new plants and expansion of the existing plants, cost effectiveness demand that you should rather go in for expansion of the existing plants than setting up of new plants, as a matter of policy.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: People have applied to BALCO. But, they have said 'No'.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: Hon. Member has again raised the question about BALCO. For his information, I would like to state that the Chairman of BALCO, General Sen Gupta is himself very keen that they should be assured about the allotment of money so that they may start the work. He met me in this connection on 21st of November and again on 2nd of December. I can assure you that there is no obstruction. They are not facing any difficulty. They are very keen that the money should be allotted and the work should be started.

MR CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, the question was that some displaced persons had applied to BALCO for getting employment in BALCO, but BALCO did not give them employment although they had some employment to be given. They did not give employment to the displaced persons contrary to the policy you have. This is the question.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: In Ratnagiri, you mean?

SHRI DHAMANKAR: Yes.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I would make it clear that in Ratnagiri, really speaking, no work has started. So, there is no question of giving employment. The site office is there. Ten of our officers with the staff are there. There has been land acquisition proceedings in regard to land etc.

SHRI S. L. PEJE (Ratnagiri): I am told BALCO has given employment to some people. They have constructed something. How does the Minister say that there is no employment? He is giving wrong information.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I should like to assure the hon. Members that when the plant comes into existence construction work will start and according to our well-defined policy the Government will give priority to those people who will be displaced due to land acquisition. Therefore, there should be no suspicion in the minds of Members.

श्री मधु लिमये : बोधवारों का अनुभव अच्छा नहीं है ।

श्री चन्द्रजीत यादव : वहां ४३ परसेंट विहार के लोगों को एम्प्लाय किया गया है ।

श्री मधु लिमये : वह सवाल नहीं था। विस्थापितों के बारे में पूछ रहे हैं ।

श्री चन्द्रजीत यादव : वह मैं कह चुका हूँ कि हर विस्थापित परिवार में एक आदमी को हमने पहले निश्चित रूप में नौकरी दी और अगर माननीय सदस्य को कुछ और मालूम है और उन के पास कोई निश्चित सूचना है तो उस को वह मुझे दे दे और मैं उस को देखूंगा और अगर कोई ऐसा परिवार रह गया है जिस के एक सदस्य को नहीं मिली है तो उस को भी मिलेगी ।

श्री मधु लिमये : रत्नागिरि में वह गलती न दोहराईये ।

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: In five years we expect completion. I should like to tell Mr. Madhu Limaye again that his information was not correct. All those projects whose foundations were laid in U.P. have been started; many of them I know; in my district there were two projects and both of them were started. So we do not believe in befooling people and creating wrong illusions. We want that developmental activity should not be mixed up with politics. I request my friends, particularly Prof. Madhu Dandavate, who said that we were going to give that

plant in Gujarat because of the elections. He is also asking me whether Ratnagiri will not be started immediately because it will be done only in 1976. This is not a correct approach. In a democracy elections come and go but developmental activities will also be there continuously and developmental activities should not be mixed up with politics.

18.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 5, 1974/Agrahayana 14, 1896 (Saka).