

consultation with Gujarat Government. They have not been able to discuss the matter with the Gujarat Government. Rajasthan Government has, therefore not taken any decision with regard to construction of this dam so far.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Is it a fact that a proposal in this regard was received by the Planning Commission and it has been sent back to Rajasthan Government asking for more details?

I would request the hon'ble Minister to collect the necessary information in this regard and inform the House about it. It is quite necessary because it is in tribal area where the people are living below poverty line. If this plan is implemented through your initiative, the condition of these poor people can be improved. You should, therefore take it seriously.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, even if this proposal was sent to the Planning Commission, it will naturally come to the Central Electricity Authority as it deals with power generation. They must have not received any such proposal and Rajasthan Government has also informed us that there are certain inter-state issues involving Gujarat Government, which have not so far been settled. Rajasthan Government has not taken any decision with regard to construction of this dam so far. In view of above the question of clearance of the project does not arise.

Contract for Oil drilling by O.N.G.C.

*575. **SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI:**
SHRI RAM PRASAD
CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has since awarded the contracts of conducting survey and shot hole drilling;

(b) if so, the agencies to whom contracts

were awarded; and

(c) whether the agencies to whom contracts were awarded were the lowest tenderers, and technically best out of all those quoted?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

(c) Excepting for the work covered under Inter-Government protocols, ONGC have awarded contracts to those agencies whose offers were technically acceptable and at the lowest available rates.

STATEMENT

I. SEISMIC SURVEYS

(a) *Foreign Firms*

M/s. GECO, Norway

(b) *Joint Venture Cos.*

(i) M/s. Amtek Geophysical Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad

(ii) M/s. Petty Ray Geophysical Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi

(iii) M/s. Sanpra Geophysical Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi

(iv) M/s. CGG Pan India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi

(v) M/s. Selan Exploration Technology Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

(vi) M/s. Alpha Geo Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad

(c) *Under Inter Government Protocol*

(i) M/s. Polservice, Poland

(ii) M/s. Technoexport/Machinoexport of USSR

II. Shot Hole Drilling

(1) M/s. Lord Sun Drilling Services (P) Ltd.

(2) M/s. Jai Raj Associates

(3) M/s. Geodrill Services Contract Cooperative Society

(4) M/s. G.C. Paul, Calcutta

(5) M/s. Prefect Tubewell Corporation, Baroda

(6) M/s. Rushabh Drillers Pvt. Ltd. Baroda

(7) M/s. Petro Drill Enterprises, Baroda

(8) M/s. Drill Well Associates Cooperative Society Ltd.

(9) M/s. Oriental Borewell Cooperative Society Ltd.

(10) M/s. Exploratory Drillers Cooperative Society Ltd.

(11) M/s. A. Sharmah, Jorhat

(12) M/s. Betabari Mouza (Cooperative)

(13) M/s. PUB, Surpathar Tikha Sampai Committee (Cooperative)

(14) M/s. S.P. Chakravaty of Calcutta

(15) M/s. R.C. Das & SOs of Nahorkatiya

(16) M/s. Pechnocrete of Calcutta

(17) M/s. Canchajaniya Progressive Enterprises, Kakinada (AP)

(18) M/s. East Coast Engineering Co., Guntur (A.P)

(19) M/s. A.P. Enterprises, Calcutta

(20) M/s. Mahavir Enterprises, Calcutta

(21) M/s. Haripada Das, Calcutta

(22) M/s. Deccan Construction Co. Madras

(23) M/s. SIDP Cooperative, Madras

(24) M/s. Metro Drill Equipment Pvt. Ltd., Bombay

(25) M/s. Vishesh Engg. Co. Guntur (A.P)

(26) M/s. C. Ramachandra Reddy, Madras

(27) M/s. Jophn Paul Associates, Madras

(28) M/s. Dilip Construction, Calcutta

(29) M/s. Asit Chowdhary, Calcutta

(30) M/s. Assiance India, Calcutta

(31) M/s. Ganesh and Co. Calcutta

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI: Sir, I want to know the names of Indian companies dealing with shot hole drilling to whom contracts have been awarded? Secondly, I want to ask whether contracts have been awarded to the lowest tenderers? Whether condition of 3 years experience was stipulated for the contractors? There are 31 companies in India. The bureaucrats got the work done by obliging some particular persons with selfish motives. I also want to know whether it is a fact that these contracts have not been awarded to the people having 3 years experience. Kindly let us know the names of the companies out of 31 companies, to whom contracts have been awarded?

[*English*]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, this question refers to both seismic survey and also to shortfall delay. And my friend is referring to 31 companies which come under drilling. These companies are selected on the basis of tenders. And the work is given to the lowest tenderer. Those tenderers who give the lowest rate, they are awarded the contract. There is no deviation.

Regarding the second aspect about the conditions laid down for selecting the contractor for this purpose, I think, this has been well thought of. There should be experience for the contractors. We cannot just pick up a new entrant as a contractor. I think, they should have experience. Otherwise, the country is going to suffer.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know the names of the Indian companies to whom drilling work has been assigned during the last two year period.

[*English*]

SHRIM.S. GURUPADASWAMY: I have got a list here. Do you want me to read out? It is a long list. I am prepared to lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Let this be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The Minister is quite right when he says that those who are having knowledge in the line they should be given the contract. But before asking for tenders, the firms are registered and become eligible to submit tenders. When this question of eligibility come, most of the people who try to register their firms with expertise in the local area like in Assam, Tripura and other places, do not get encouragement. There is only one firm in Jorhat. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will look into those firms which are having

technical know-how and which are willing to get their firms registered, will also get encouragement so that the local people and the local firms get the chance? I hope that this unhappiness which is now prevailing in Assam, Tripura and other places will be corrected at least in your time.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: I will look into this aspect.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHARY: Sir, I would like to know whether hon. Minister is aware of the news item being published in daily newspapers—Jansatta, Statesmen for the last few days continuously and in Maya journal of 30th April that there is large scale bungling in Gas Authority of India. Some time back, tenders of a Japanese company with much higher rates were accepted in spite of availability of low rated tenders submitted by certain people. I want to know whether all aspects were thoroughly examined. The previous Government has done large scale bungling in the name of this Japanese company. I want to know whether all these facts will be enquired into?

[*English*]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, this question does not arise out of this. This question refers to seismic survey. And he is talking of Gas Authority of India. If he puts another question, I am prepared to answer that.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, ONGC is supposed to be one area—if the Government is really interested in foreign exchange—where large number of NRIs are prepared to come and work both in survey as well as in drilling fields. I am interested in regard to Krishna-Godavari Basin where the gas and the oil are struck in large quantities. I wish to know from the hon. Minister—instead of getting a reply that it is not technically acceptable or economically acceptable—how much percentage of contracts are being awarded to the Indian nationals both in drilling as well as in

surveys and how much percentage of contract is being awarded to foreign nationals or foreign agencies in terms of money? Secondly, is the Government thinking in terms of encouraging the Non-Resident Indians who have got expertise in this field and who are prepared to hire vessels from their own foreign exchange and not seeking the foreign exchange from the Government?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Bulk of the seismic survey is being done by ONGC departmentally. But regarding the question whether they are encouraging indigenous firms, yes, Sir, we are encouraging the indigenous firms. We have employed only three foreign firms for seismic survey; two firms under protocol which we have entered with Poland and Russia which is inevitable. They are doing their work. The third firm is M/s. GECO, Norway. The contract is awarded to that firm because near Andamans we do not have facilities to have this kind of work done by indigenous companies. Therefore we had to employ this company and they are doing very well. Only these three companies are foreign companies, the rest of the companies—six of them—are indigenous companies which have been given contracts.

SHRI K.S. RAO: What about division in terms of money?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: In the case of Norway company I think we have incurred nearly two and odd crores of rupees.

Regarding the indigenous companies there are various figures, I don't have them. If he puts another question, I am prepared to answer it.

Regarding the question about Krishna-Godavari basin, the work is going on and we have allotted it to one firm.

We will do our best to get the NRIs here if they have the necessary technical knowhow.

I have got all the details here. It is a big list.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is a big list, you can lay it on the table of the House.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: At the time of its inception in 1956 it was declared that the ONGC's objectives would be inter-alia the promotion of sales efforts in oil related equipment and self-reliance in technology. I would like to know after the expiry of 34 years why the ONGC has not been in a position to develop the oil related equipment for its survey and drilling purposes.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Let me answer Shri K.S. Rao's question first. M/s. CGG Pan India is doing the work in the Godavari area.

Regarding Shri Giri's question, our purpose is to indigenise as far as possible. Only in cases where indigenisation is not possible, at the present moment we are taking the help of foreign companies.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from hon. Minister through you, whether it is a fact that 30-40 per cent L.P.G. gas goes waste in the absence of proper arrangements? Does Government propose to give contract to some private agency to check this wastage?

[English]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: This is a separate question, not related to this question. Let him put another question.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: For the last one year there has been survey of various types by ONGC in the State of Orissa and also in the State of West Bengal—in West Bengal by the side of River Ganges particularly in the city of Calcutta and in Orissa by the side of the River Mahanadi in the city of Cuttack and other places. May I know from the hon. Minister as to which are the agencies which carried out the survey and what are the results of the survey?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: About which survey do you want to know?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: The survey to find out oil. For this, contracts have already been given to a few agencies. There was a survey carried out for the last 40 years and they used to do it at night. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to which are the agencies which carried out the survey and what are the results of the survey.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, I want a separate notice for that. Anyhow, I may share the information with the hon. member that we are doing the exploration work in West Bengal for nearly 40 years. Till now, we have invested more than 400 crores of rupees. We have not got a drop of oil, nor a bit of gas from West Bengal. But we are pursuing that. We have not left that. (*Interruptions*)

DR. A.K. PATEL: Sir, the previous Chairman Col. Wahi purchased 150 rigs for drilling purposes. What is the sense in giving these to private agencies for drilling purposes? Crores of rupees have been spent for purchasing the rigs. May I know from the hon. Minister as to why the Government rigs are not used and why the private rigs are being used for drilling purposes?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, this has got nothing to do with the main question. But let me clarify that we have got our own rigs and we are using them wherever it is technically feasible. This question related to using of rigs for a specialised drilling purpose. So, it is a different question.

Introduction of Shatabdi Express Between Madras and Bangalore

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*578. **SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:**
SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRI-
YAPPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce Shatabdi Express between Madras and Bangalore; and

(b) if so, when this train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Sir, in South India, Bangalore and Madras are the State Capitals. The existing train facility between these two Capitals is not adequate. It is most inconvenient for the passengers to travel from Bangalore to Madras and from Madras to Bangalore. Such being the case, will the hon. Minister for Railways be pleased to say whether—in the interest of both the States and for the convenience of the passengers—he will consider the introduction of a new Shatabdi Express between Bangalore and Madras?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I do not share the view of the hon. Member that the existing trains are not able to cope up with the traffic between Bangalore and Madras. Insofar as the hon. Member's suggestion to introduce a Shatabdi Express train is concerned, I do not think that it will be possible in the near future to go in for such a train.

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA: If the hon. Minister is reluctant to introduce the Shatabdi Express for reasons known to him, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will at least extend, the double line facility which is already existing upto Jolarpet, to Bangalore? Will that be taken up early?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I will examine that.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHAVJI: Sir, I would like to