LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 20, 1990/Phalguna 29, 1911 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at

Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the list of Questions is not being supplied to us. We have not been supplied the proceedings of the House so far. We have given in writing.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yoy will get these things.

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY: We are not receiving any paper.

MR. SPEAKER: You may please sit down.

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY: Kindly give your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: You may please sit down, it will be done.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Thermal Power Plant at Talcher (Orissa)

*101. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of super thermal power stations established by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) at different places in the country so far;

(b) whether the NTPC had a proposal to set up a thermal power station at Talcher in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to expedite the execution of that project?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is, at present, operating/executing nine coal based super thermal power projects and four gas based power projects at different places in the country; and

(b) and (c). The proposal for the setting up of a super thermal power plant (2 x 500 MW) at Talcher in Orissa by the NTPC was approved in November, 1988. The construction activities under the project are progressing as per schedule.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Union Minister of Energy for his reply. My first question would be that already there has been considerable

delay in the execution of super thermal power plant at Talcher. It was actually proposed during the Sixth Plan. However, it is heartening to note that the Government of India have finally taken the decision to set up the plant. I wish to know by which year the super thermal power plant would be commissioned and expected to generate power.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, the Government has approved in November 1988 the setting up of Talcher Super Thermal Power Project in the District of Dhenkanal at a cost of Rs. 1,480 crores and it includes Rs. 76 crores for the Associated Transmission System. I have already said in reply to the main question that the progress of the project is in accordance with the schedule.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: My second question is this. I am happy to learn that the constructional activities under the project are progressing as per schedule. I would like to know the estimated cost of the project, whether the Central Government would bear the entire cost or whether the Government has sought the World Bank or any external assistance for executing this project; if so, the details of the proposal mooted by the Government in that regard.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, this is an NTPC project So, the cost is to be borne by the NTPC. The total cost of the project, which I have already given, is Rs. 1,480.85 crores including Rs. 76.18 crores for Associated Transmission System.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is there any proposal before the Government to start one more Super Thermal Power Plant in the Hospet area in the Bellary District in Karnataka State?

MR. SPEAKER: It does not pertain to this. It pertains to Orissa, Madam

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER Mr Minister, do you want to reply?

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: I did not hear, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It pertains to Orissa. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: I did not hear. Please tell me. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, about any specific place in Karnataka, I will require a fresh notice. But, if the hon. Member is interested, I can give the details of the on-going projects of the NTPC.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NATHU SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Rajasthan.....

MR. SPEAKER:This question pertains to Talcher.

SHRI NATHU SINGH: As this question relates to Super Thermal Power, I would like to know the reasons for not responding positively to the request made by the Government of Rajasthan for a Super Thermal Power Project.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have yourself stated that this question is in regard to Orissa. As the hon. Member wants to know about the proposal submitted by the State Government to the Central Government for a project in Rajasthan, my submission is that a number of factors like coal linkage, environment etc. have to be taken into consideration while deciding about a project. If the Member wants information about a particular project, I will give it to him.

[*English*]

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Sir, I am informed that this Thermal Power Plant should have come to Orissa in the Sixth Plan period itself and the capacity of that was about 3,000 MW. Now, Orissa is reeling under acute power shortage; there is about 800 MW power shortage now. Orissa is a

backward State. So, I would like the hon. Minister to specifically answer two questions:—

i) whether the hon. Minister would see that another Thermal Plant with a capacity of 2,000 MW is located there because ample coal is available there?

ii) I have my information that the construction is not according to schedule. The whole design was frustrated. So, the entire schedule was delayed and it was made in such a fashion so that it will not actually work. Hence, will the hon. Minister kindly see that the construction is completed within one year?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, the project has two units of 500 MW each. The first 500 MW unit is expected to be commissioned by April, 1994 and the second unit would be commissioned one year thereafter. I have already stated that the progress of the project is according to the schedule and there has not been any delay. The Government had given the approval in November, 1988.

Caprolactum Plant at Cochin

102. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Caprolactum plant set up at Cochin has been commissioned;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) by what time it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a). No, Sir.

(b) Delayed delivery of some critical equipments, uncertain availability of raw material such as stainless steel, and power cut have affected the project schedule, as reported.

(c) It is likely to be commissioned by June, 1990.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the Railway Minister seems to be wearing a lot of hats.....

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question Mr. Krishna Kumar.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: He is omnibus.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the 50,000 tonne Ammonium Sulphate Caprolactum Plant in Kerala is one of the most prestigious and vital industrial development projects of the State. It was supposed to have been commissioned in 1987. Later on, as per the revised schedule, it was to start the commercial production a few months ago and it is still being unconscionably delayed. This is not a Kerala industrial problem alone. Caprolactum is a vital raw material for nylon industry; 75 per cent of this raw material is being imported by India and there is recession in the nylon industry and the nylon weaving industry affecting a large number of silk and other weavers.

Sir, The Minister has given some reasons for the delay. I would like to specifically ask how much of the delay and cost escalation, is due to failure of planning, especially in the procurement of vital equipment and how much of it is due to inadequate power supply, failure to give uninterrupted power supply to the project by the Government of Kerala. I ask this because, the Kerala Government on the one hand has been insisting on the completion of the project, and on the other hand, it has been criticising the previous Central Government for neglect of the State, when it comes to industrial projects.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: When the plant was first conceived, it was expected to cost Rs. 147 crores and the increase in the cost of this plant-a large percentage-is due to escalation in cost *per se*.