

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday April 30, 1985/Vaisakha 10, 1907
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Budget Provision for Karnal Refinery

*649. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) this year's budget provision for the planned Karnal Refinery;

(b) the approved investment for this refinery; and

(c) whether at the present rate of budgetary provision, the refinery will be completed by the dateline, September, 1989 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Rs. 1 crore.

(b) Rs. 1359.07 crores.

(c) According to Government approval, the project is to be mechanically completed by September, 1989. Adequate provision of funds will be one of the factors affecting the completion schedule of the Refinery.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Sir, I must, for once, congratulate the Minister for his clever brevity. Out of the approved investment of Rs. 1,359 crores, only Rs. one crore has been allotted this year, and the Minister said that availability of funds will be one of the factors. Now, as part of my first question, I would like to ask this. I am happy to see the Petroleum Minister noting down because I would like answers to each one of these parts of the question. Firstly, he said the availability of funds is one of the factors. What are the other factors. Over and above this one crore of rupees allotted this year, have you incurred other expenditure on acquisition of land for the Refinery. On the jaunts of the officers to the United States and Western Europe to procure a hydro cracker, a hydrogen plant, how much is spent? Have you placed orders with some of our public undertakings like the Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels, to what extent you have placed orders and whether all this is adequate is reasonable with the provision of Rs. one crore for this year? This is my first question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Still you are having some more questions to ask !

SHRI ZULFIQUAR ALI KHAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, you will also do the same if you come here.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has taken a revenge on his brevity!

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Sir, the honourable learned Member has put the first question with regard to the availability of funds whether it is the only reason for

affecting the completion schedule of the Refinery. Sir, I had said that if funds are not available, it is one of the factors which would affect the completion schedule of this Refinery. There may be many other things in between the acquisition of land....

SHRI G.G. SWELL : What are they ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : That is being done there. There are other things.

The time schedule requires the availability of equipment from BHEL and BHPV and others. Therefore, even if funds are made available, probably these factors may delay the project. I cannot anticipate things as such. Therefore, I have stated that the availability of funds is one of the reasons which may compel us and the delay may be there.

So far as the other question is concerned, we have placed advance order to BHEL for power plant to the tune of Rs. one crore. Advance payment to BHPV for crude and vacuum columns is made for Rs. 0.35 crores. Engineering fee to EIL is Rs. 0.20 crores. We have also made payment for Government land as well as private land. We have also made payment for the soil investigation down payment to Kurukshetra University site grading and bridges down payment to M/s. Bridge & Roof is Rs. 0.25 crores. Railway survey deposit with Indian Railways is Rs. 0.25 crores. Construction of power and electricity deposit with HSEB is Rs. 0.25 crores. Construction period expenses are Rs. 0.22 crores. So, it comes to Rs. 4.45 crores.

Though the total allocation which has been made in the present Budget is only Rs. one crore, in the year 1984-85, we had a provision of Rs. 7 crores. Out of this provision of Rs. 7 crores, these payments have been made and committed.

I have no information with regard to the jaunts abroad. But I will furnish this to the hon. Members. That may be minimum. It may be one of the lowest items included. The main constraint with regard

to the Karnal refinery for the present is, adequate provision and the budgetary support for completion.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Well, it would appear from what the Minister has said and also the brevity of his answer that he is pessimistic about the completion of this refinery by 1989. This is one of the giant refineries which we have proposed to set up—the setting up of which was already approved. I am told that it is a 6-million tonne refinery designed to meet the requirements of petroleum products by the year 1989-90 for the whole of North Western India comprising Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Western U.P. and parts of Rajasthan. It is also designed to refine our domestic Bombay high crude.

Now, I think, the Minister will agree that this project is not going to be completed by 1990. But the petroleum requirements of these areas are not going to wait for you. The demands will be there. How are you going to meet these demands by that time ?

The only other alternative before you is to import the crude and petroleum products. If you are going to import it, what would be your landing port and how far away the landing port will be with this area that you are proposing to serve ?

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the landing port has infra-structural facilities, how they are going to transport petroleum products from the port to the consuming area, what will be the total cost involved and whether the total cost involved will be much more than the cost of this Refinery.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : I am thankful to the hon. Member who has highlighted some of the very important needs of the country with regard to this Refinery. I am one with him that this Refinery must come up in time. I am in agreement with him that the import of petroleum products may pose difficulties and also the transportation of petroleum products from the port which is Kandla to the consuming centres would pose greater difficulties. There may be sometimes trans-

port bottlenecks in the consuming areas. It is also a fact that this Refinery has a 6 million tonne capacity and this Refinery is going to process the Bombay High crude.

In view of all these things and considerations, this Refinery was proposed and, fortunately, it was approved by the Planning Commission. But probably because of constraints of resources, the Planning Commission is not providing the requisite funds. My Ministry is trying very hard to get funds from the Planning Commission. We have suggested to them that some of the funds' requirement can be met by our internal resources also. All these matters are still under the consideration of the Planning Commission. We hope that the Planning Commission in view of the urgency and the need of this Refinery to be set up will consider it favourably.

SHRI T.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAPPA : Both Karnal and Mangalore Refineries were sanctioned at the same time. Mangalore Refinery is a cheaper project as compared to Karnal Refinery because it is situated near the shore belt. The amount which has been given so far is negligible....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is about Karnal Refinery. You are asking about Mangalore Refinery. If you want to put any supplementary regarding Karnal Refinery, you put it. Why are you going from Karnal Refinery to Mangalore Refinery or to some other Refinery? You have to give sufficient notice to the Minister so that he is in a position to reply to that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAPPA : So many foreign agencies are coming forward to take up such projects in Karnal and Mangalore. Will the Government make some arrangements in regard to getting financial assistance from foreign countries in order to get through these projects at an early date? According to the statement made by the hon. Minister, the Planning Commission is not agreeing to place the funds at the disposal of the Ministry or to make some other financial arrangements for completing such projects. The foreign countries are coming forward to take up the oil refinery projects in our

country. May I know whether the hon. Minister will examine this aspect of getting foreign assistance from other countries for early completion of these projects?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The hon. Member has put a question with regard to Mangalore Refinery though the question relates to the Karnal Refinery. However, I am of the view that Mangalore Refinery which has been approved by the Planning Commission in principle is being held up for constraint of resources and as the hon. Member has suggested about the via media, this is a suggestion which can be examined by the Planning Commission and the Government at a different level.

Qualifications for Appointment of Standing and Panel Counsels

*653. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any rules and minimum qualifications prescribed for appointment of Central Government Standing and Panel Counsels; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARADWAJ : (a) and (b) Persons appointed as Central Government Standing Counsel and Panel Counsel are practising advocates who fulfil the qualifications prescribed under the Advocates Act, 1961 and are enrolled on the Roll of the Bar Council concerned. It has not been considered necessary to make any separate rules in this regard. The appointment is made keeping in view the experience, standing at the Bar and other relevant considerations.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have been referring to the Standing Counsels and Panel Counsels all along, but, what are the reasons for not framing rules in this regard? When there are no rules, you kindly let me know what the definition of an Advo-