

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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[English]

It is against all democratic norms.

[Translation]

Thursday, July 27, 1989/Sravana 5, 1911
(Saka)

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: One has to speak according to the norms. It is not so that if Shri Fotedar wants us to hold our tongue, we shall oblige him.

The Lok Sabha met at three minutes past
Eleven of the Clock

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a person sitting between Shri Bhajan Lal and Shri Fotedar cannot maintain a stony silence; he has to laugh...

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER: Really?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is the matter?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: But here it is Rajesh Pilot.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: He seems to be unusually happy.

MR. SPEAKER: Is that so?

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: If one sits next to Shri Fotedar and grins constantly, he says that he is very happy.

[English]

Widening of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Section of National Highway No. 5

MR. SPEAKER: I hope no Ruling is required in this matter?

*141. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Shri Bhajan Lal needs a ruling so that he remains quiet.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I cannot stop anyone from speaking in democracy.

(a) the target date set for the completion of the widening work of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar section of National Highway No. 5;

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: We come to the House to speak and not to remain silent.

(b) whether the widening work has not made much progress;

MR. SPEAKER: I have also said the same that I cannot prevent people from speaking in democracy.

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the allocation during 1989-90 for early completion of the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c). Of the 24.60 Km. length, work in 2.8 Kms. has since been sanctioned and completed but for a small stretch of service lane, which is targetted for completion by December, 1989. It is too early to give an indication about the widening of the remaining stretch.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, when we have so much faith on the young Minister for Surface Transport, we are really disappointed to get such a reply. If you see part (a) of the Question, that is, the target date set for the completion of the widening work of 'Cuttack-Bhubaneswar section', he has stated that work in 2.8 Kms. stretch has since been sanctioned and completed. He has also replied that it is too early to give an indication about the widening of the remaining stretch.

For part (b) of the Question also, we are not told anything. But, in a way, I feel that he has admitted that the progress has not been much.

Sir, however, the World Bank Mission visited the site on 18.3.1989, What is their opinion? Did the Mission want the project to be extended further, that is, from 24 km to 27 thus including the second Mahanadi bridge. Further when the final project will be ready to be presented to the World Bank Mission and when the approval will be obtained? I would also like to know whether this project will be included in the next Plan and completed in that Plan period itself?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, it is a fact that the work has been slow. I do accept that. The problem is that it is a congested area.

There are water pipelines, telephone lines, electrical lines, etc. and it has taken long time to get those cleared.

Another factor which I personally know is that maybe the hon. Chief Minister of that State is zealous of the popularity of the local member from that place as he is not cooperating to that extent which is expected from the State Government. I have no other comments to make except to say that the World Bank Mission visited the site and agreed it to be included in the next Plan and also whatever delay is there we will cover it up in the next Plan and this will be completed at the earliest.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you must come to our rescue. We know that whatever amount is sanctioned the engineers there are prompt enough to complete the work. Further much of the land belongs to the Government and very little belongs to the private people so the acquisition of land should not create much difficulty. We are very much concerned about the congestion of the national highway. It is very much accident prone highway. So I want to know the detailed estimate of the land acquisition and the removal of service utility lines and whether they have been sanctioned and, if not, when they will be sanctioned.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The estimates for the land acquisition have come from the State Government. It is with the Ministry. We will react to the proposal very soon. It is a congested area that is why we have thought of 4 lines highway. The traffic is very high on this sector and before coming to the House I assured the hon. Member that whatever slow progress on behalf of the State Government or our Department has been there we will make it up in the coming Plan.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You were saying that some person was not cooperating. Who is that person.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I have told the hon. Chief Minister whenever he has come to Delhi that it is an important sector and we want cooperation from the State Government. Maybe the hon. Chief Minister is jealous of the popularity of the local member of Parliament.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You can request him through her.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: My duty is to inform her.

Amount Allocated Under Jute Production Programme

*142. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated to Bihar and other Jute producing States under jute production programme during 1987-88 and 1988-89 in absolute terms as well as percentage of the total allocation each year;

(b) the amount actually drawn and spent by the State Government of Bihar each year in absolute terms as well as percentage of the total amounts drawn and spent by jute producing States; and

(c) the broad scope of the schemes on which the expenditure has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The allocation to Bihar and other

Jute Producing States during 1987-88 was Rs. 82.57 lakh and Rs. 503.67 lakh respectively and Rs. 112.05 lakh and Rs. 762.42 lakh during 1988-89. Bihar was allocated 14% and 13% of the total allocation during 1987-88 and 1988-89 respectively.

(b) Bihar was paid Rs. 82.57 lakh during 1987-88 but did not incur any expenditure. Hence no amount was released during 1988-89 and the State spent Rs. 41.285 lakh. Amount spent by Jute Producing States during 1987-88 was Rs. 181.29 lakh. During 1988-89, the amounts were released to the States only after adjusting the unspent balance.

(c) The scheme provide for subsidised sale of certified seeds, seed-drill, wheel hoes, sprayers, retting tanks, fungal culture, plant protection chemicals/soil ameliorants, training of farmers.

SHRI SYED SAHABUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement makes a sorry reading. A certain amount was allocated to Bihar and other jute producing States for 1987-88. In the case of Bihar apparently money was released but no expenditure was incurred at all and even in the case of other States the actual utilisation was very low. What I would like to know from the hon. Minister is the actual date of allocation for the year 1987-88 and the actual date of release of the funds to Bihar and other States.

Then, I would like to know in this connection from the hon. Minister whether the amount, which has remained unutilised during 1987-88 and 1988-89, will be an added sum available for these States in addition to the normal allocation for 1989-90. Of course, the Minister will please tell us the allocation for 1989-90.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, the date of allocation was provided in the budget of that year. I don't have the exact date. But, I think, the actual release was done sometime in October.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: My infor-