

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 17, 1986 | Chaitra 27, 1908
(SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Loans to Fishing Companies by Shipping Development Fund Committee

*720. SHRI D.P. YADAVA† :

SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain fishing companies obtained hasty clearance of loans from Shipping Development Fund Committee before 31st March, 1986 ;

(b) the particulars of all such fishing companies which have been sanctioned loans by Shipping Development Fund Committee between 1 January, 1986 and 31 March, 1986 and the amount of loans sanctioned to each such company ;

(c) whether any charge of financial irregularities by the Board of Directors of fishing companies has come to the notice of Government in this regard ;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ; and

(e) whether Government propose to review all such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The details of fishing companies which were sanctioned loans between

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1.1.1986 to 31.3.1986 are shown in the statement below.

(c) In one case of M/s. Venketeswara Fisheries (P) Ltd., certain allegations of financial irregularities against Board of Directors of the said company have been brought to the notice of Government.

(d) Director of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu has been asked by Department of Agriculture to make confidential enquiries on the standing and antecedents of Managing Director and other Directors and financial standing of M/s. Venketeswara Fisheries (Pvt.) Ltd., against whom allegations of financial irregularities were made. The matter is also sub-judice before Madras High Court.

(e) No, Sir.

STATEMENT

DETAILS OF FISHING COMPANIES WHICH WERE SANCTIONED LOANS BETWEEN 1-1-1986 TO 31-3-1986

(A) Indigenous Trawlers

Sl. No.	Name of the Company	Amount of loan
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	M/s. Premier Trawling (P) Ltd. Madras.	72,51,900
2.	M/s. Mahalakshmi Marine Products (P) Ltd., Madras.	72,51,900
3.	M/s. Crown Fisheries (P) Ltd., Tuticorin.	72,51,900
4.	M/s. Swagath Marine Products, Madras.	72,51,900
5.	M/s. Gees Marine Products, (P) Ltd., Tuticorin.	72,51,900
6.	M/s. Saravanan Marine Products Pvt. Ltd., Madras.	72,51,900
7.	M/s. Appu International (P) Ltd., New Delhi.	148,24,000

1	2	3		
8.	M/s. Seabay Venture (P) Ltd., Cochin.	74,12,000	6.	M/s. Leo Seafoods (P) Ltd., (29-7-85). Rs. 1,69,78,500
9.	M/s. Bhavani Marine Traders (P) Ltd., Madras.	74,12,000	7.	M/s. Lelsun Seafoods & Marine Products (P) Ltd., (3-12-85). Rs. 85,24,494
10.	M/s. Embassy Fisheries (P) Ltd., New Deihi.	148,24,000	8.	M/s. Anchor Fisheries & Seafoods (P) Ltd., (11-10-85). Rs. 2,03,94,000
11.	M/s. Mayura Marines (P) Ltd., Visakhapatnam.	148,24,000	9.	M/s. S.A.V. Fisheries (I) Ltd., (25-9-85). Rs. 85,24,494
12.	M/s. Four Season Fisheries Ltd., Visakhapatnam.	145,67,188	10.	M/s. Pratuna Trawling (P) Ltd., (6-1-86). Rs. 1,77,12,000
13.	M/s. Sarva Shakthi Fisheries (P) Ltd., Bangalore.	145,67,188	11.	M/s. MGR Seafoods (P) Ltd., (7-1-86). Rs. 1,77,12,000
14.	M/s. Marine Fisheries (P) Ltd., Visakhapatnam.	72,83,594	12.	M/s. G.P. Marine Products India (P) Ltd., Guntur. Rs. 1,69,78,500
15.	M/s. Shabari Fisheries (P) Ltd., Bangalore.	72,83,594	13.	M/s. High Seafoods Ltd., New Delhi. Rs. 84,89,250
16.	M/s. Shreyas Seafoods (P) Ltd., Bangalore.	72,83,594	14.	M/s. Ocean Products and Shipping (P) Ltd. Rs. 2,03,94,000
17.	M/s. Capricorn Fisheries (P) Ltd., Visakhapatnam.	72,83,594		
18.	M/s. Maruti Marines (P) Ltd., Kakinada.	146,46,600		
19.	M/s. Sharmila Fisheries (P) Ltd., Visakhapatnam.	73,23,300		
20.	M/s. Geetha Marines Products (P) Ltd., Pondicherry.	73,16,700		

(B) Imported Trawlers

Sl. No.	Name of Company & (Date of appl.)	90% loan recommended at the prevailing rate of Foreign Ex.
1.	M/s. Sagarika Seafoods (P) Ltd., (9-10-84).	Rs. 85,24,494
2.	M/s. Continental Fisheries (P) Ltd., (11-10-85).	Rs. 85,24,494
3.	M/s. Reghu Seafoods (P) Ltd., (26-12-85).	Rs. 85,24,494
4.	M/s. Mudnur Marines Ltd., (7-11-85).	Rs. 1,69,78,500
5.	M/s. Victoria Fisheries (P) Ltd., (14-1-86).	Rs. 1,69,78,500

SHRI D.P. YADAVA : Will the hon. Minister assure the House that pending clearance by the competent inquiring authorities and clearance by the hon. High Court, no further loan instalment will be granted to M/s. Venketeswara Fisheries (P) Ltd. ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is basically the Agriculture Ministry which is sanctioning these loans through us. There is a Screening Committee in Agriculture Ministry which recommends the case to us and the SDFC is the disbursing agency. As regards this particular case where irregularities have been brought to our notice, we are inquiring through the Director, Fisheries, and the suggestion which has been made by the hon. Member will be kept in mind.

SHRI D.P. YADAVA : I want to know whether a large number of underhand dealings have come to light in regard to giving this kind of loans and if so, what action has been taken in that regard.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Some reports have been brought to the notice of the Government that some people and some companies have certainly misused the facilities. On the one hand, shipping itself is in recession ; and there is also the question of

national exchequer money, the hard-earned money of the citizens. We will make sure that no misuse is made by individuals or by companies.

SHRI D.P. JADEJA : The hon. Minister has just admitted that these loans are disbursed by the Ministry but on the recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture. Another Ministry is also involved and that is the Ministry of Shipping and Transport. The Ministry of Finance also come in it. Will the Government reconsider the answer given to part (a) of the Question where it is said, 'No Sir'? Would not you try to review the entire procedure of the funding from the SDFC in respect of these fishing trawlers which are purchased from abroad and mainly to have a global tender when such fishing vessels are taken and not to go according to the individuals who make negotiations abroad ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, as far as the functioning of the present system is concerned, it is a good system because there is a Screening Committee which checks all these observations before sanctioning the loan. After the observations are put up to the Screening Committee, they recommend to the Agriculture Ministry and they in turn recommend to us. The Shipping and Transport Ministry only gives subsidy. Loan part is entirely with the Agriculture Ministry. Whichever Agriculture Ministry recommends, we subsidise the shipping yards and that is to encourage the shipping industry.

As far the suggestion made by the hon. Member to have a global tender is concerned we will consider that.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Mr. Speaker Sir, so far as the shipping development fund is concerned, it was originally meant for the increase of the tonnage of Indian shipping. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how many applications are pending with the Ministry for loan from the SDFC for the cargo-cum-passenger ships and to what extent the Government has taken action.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : This is slightly far away from this question. The information that the Hon. Member has asked for will be supplied to him in a correct form.

Renovation of Lord Jagannath Temple

*721. **SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the renovation measures taken in Puri Jagannath Temple are being completed according to prescribed time schedule ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether the progress of renovation and removing the plaster has brought some valuable archaeological and artistic work to notice and if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether any other ancient temples and tanks associated with the history of this temple are under consideration for renovation to protect them from deterioration and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) The conservation measure taken in Jagannath temple are being implemented in a phased manner on the advice of the Expert Committee constituted for the preservation of the temple. The work of deplastering and preservation has to be undertaken with meticulous care and it is a slow process which ensures that the concealed part of masonry containing sculptured surface is not damaged.

(b) Yes, Sir. The original exterior surface exposed as a result of deplastering contains fine figures of Krishna, Agni, Buddha, Ganesh, Nayikas, etc., within decorative niches, panels showing Ganas and Vyalas besides processions, floral and ornamental reliefs and architectural details.

(c) Other ancient temples and tanks outside the Jagannath Temple complex are not Centrally protected and, therefore, their renovation has not yet been considered.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : My question was specific—whether the renovation measures are being completed according to the prescribed time schedule. Absolutely no answer is given for it. I do not know how it escaped the attention of the Hon. Minister. However, I want to know whether the pollution and environmental factors which contribute to causing damages and deterioration of the temple have