

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Wednesday August 6, 1986/
Sravana 15, 1908 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

HOMAGE TO VICTIMS OF FIRST ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED ON HIRO- SHIMA

MR. SPEAKER : Today, 41 years ago, the first atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Thousands of people were killed and many more were maimed and disabled for life. The years that have since gone by have witnessed the development of nuclear weapons that are thousand times more powerful than the atom bomb that fell on Hiroshima. The world community sits on a powder-keg today, for the nuclear weapons in the arsenals of the big powers are capable of destroying all living beings on earth many times over. We, therefore, reiterate the demand of all human kind for an immediate halt to the nuclear race and its extension to outer space followed by steps to dismantle the existing nuclear stockpiles. The determined efforts being made by six countries from five continents and the initiative taken by them to bring about nuclear de-escalation and disarmament are worthy of our appreciation. As they meet in Mexico City in pursuance of their efforts, we convey to them our best wishes for the successful outcome of their deliberations.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while in memory of the victims of the atomic holocaust.

The members then stood in silence for a short while

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, an ex-Member of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh has died and there should be a reference in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : We have already written and when we get the confirmation, we shall do it. If you can write it down on your behalf and if you can certify it, we shall do it.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Forest-based industries

*286. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to start forest-based industries in different States; and

(b) if so, whether work has started in any State in this regard and, if so, what type of industries have been taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) The Central Government do not have any proposal to start forest based industries in different States.

(b) Does not arise.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Sir, I would like to know why the Government of India do not have any proposal to start

forest-based industries. Why is this item not included in the 20-Point Programme, when the workers in these forest-based industries are going to be mainly the poor village people.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : Sir, we have the forest-based industries in the private sector, but the raw material which they get hardly meets their needs. Many of those forest-based industries are running much below their capacity. So unless we increase the forest products which are used as raw material in these forest-based industries, for which efforts are being made, I do not think that there is any point in expanding the forest-based industries without the raw material. It is for this purpose and to save our forest also, we have given certain concessions to the forest-based industries in private sector to import raw material from other countries without any import duty. That is why we do not have any proposal to set up forest-based industries in the private sector.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA : The Minister has said that the items are not available. I would like to know whether there is any proposal or any activity, so that the items which will be needed by the forest-based industries can be cultivated.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : Sir, we are already striving for more and more plantation through social forestry programmes on waste lands not only for fuel and fodder, but also farm forestry is being developed so that the needs of these forest based industries may be met.

Then Sir, the industries which utilise bulk forest products as their raw materials have also been asked to have some captive plantation to meet the needs of their industrial undertakings.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, it is unfortunate to hear an answer from the hon. Minister saying (a) there is no proposal and (b) Does not arise. Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister this. There are so many scopes for starting forest based industries in Tamil Nadu in Karnataka and other States. Sandalwood

trees are available in plenty in Tamil Nadu and also in Karnataka.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : We can extract sandalwood oil.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : 'Yes' we can extract sandalwood oil and can export it. We can get foreign exchange also. Why not we start such forest-based industries where actually the sandalwood and other trees are available.

I want to know that from the hon. Minister.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : I suppose that in those States where sandalwood is available in plenty, the State Governments had started their own factories.

As far as the Government of India is concerned, there is no proposal to start any public sector undertaking based on forest products.

As far as the State Governments are concerned where sandalwood and such products are available in plenty and if they feel that they can meet the demands of the raw material by setting up such industrial undertakings, they can do so and they are doing.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA : Sir, is the Minister aware that large scale oil based industries particularly in private sector in Assam have resulted in denuding a large number of forests? If so, what steps is the Government taking in this regard?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : Sir, as far as the forest based industries are concerned, the State Governments, as a matter of fact regulate the supply of raw materials to these private industrial units. They have their own rules for that. It is they who supply it. It is true that shortage of raw materials and denudation takes place in forest areas. Therefore, we have taken a conscious decision that we shall now allow further expansion of forest based industries unless we are assured by the State Governments about

the availability of the raw material which are used in those industrial undertakings.

Narora Atomic Power Plant

*287. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposed site of the Atomic Power Plant at Narora falls on the known Seismic fault area;

(b) if so, whether Government have carried out proper investigations in this regard particularly in the context of Cheronobyl accident in the Soviet Union; and

(c) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) The site of the Narora Atomic Power Project is located in a part of the country that is subject to low intensity seismic disturbances. Most of the Indo-Gangetic plain has this characteristic. The plant is designed to operate satisfactorily under seismic conditions that may be experienced at the site and to reach a safe shut down state when the severity of earthquake exceeds a certain intensity.

(b)&(c) In arriving at the design, internationally accepted practices and the specific recommendations of the School for Training and Research in Earthquake Engineering, Roorkee, have been adopted. Government is constantly reviewing safety of nuclear power stations and based on the expert technical advice, design and operating practices at these stations are improved to ensure that accident do not occur.

SHRI ANAND SINGH : About the location, now it is clear from the answer

given, not only by the Government, but also according to its higher officials that the site falls on seismic fault area. In this connection, I would also like to know whether it was discovered before selecting the site, or after selecting it viz. that this was being constructed on a fault area, the work being done there a mere patch-work, or it was considered earlier, and incorporated in the design itself ?

Secondly, why additional money has been put in to counter this one consideration i. e. its being on a seismic fault area ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The Committee which was appointed for this purpose knew that this area was in a seismic region. While coming to the conclusion that the plan, should go to that area, they examined this aspect also. So, when the design was made, the seismic conditions in that area were kept in view, and the practices which are followed internationally, i. e. internationally accepted practices are followed in designing the structure and having the equipment in this area.

One thing which should be clear to us is that the entire Gangetic region suffers from seismic conditions. The second thing to be remembered by us is that Japan is one of the countries which suffers from earthquake conditions; yet Japan is having 31 atomic reactors of this nature, and it is going to have ten more atomic reactors or units there. So, the designs are available in the country and internationally, to see that the earthquakes do not affect this kind of activities.

SHRI ANAND SINGH : The second question is about the safety, and the three major considerations in that regard. The first is Ganges on whose banks it is situated, the second the environment and the third is the people living around. I would like to know from the Minister what special steps have been taken to protect the Ganges from affluents, seepage or leakage from this plant, not only in the case of accidents, but even otherwise.

The next point is about environment : has a background radio-active study