

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LQK SABHA

*Tuesday, August 12, 1986/
Sravana 21, 1908 (Saka)*

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

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Radiation from Sriram Institute of Industrial Research, Delhi

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*367. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER
JAIN :

SHRI HARI KRISHNA
SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be
pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention
has been drawn to recent reports that
radiation from the Sriram Institute of
Industrial Research in Delhi has been
posing a health hazard to the surrounding
areas ;

(b) if so, whether necessary investiga-
tions have been made into the matter ;
and

(c) the remedial steps, if any, being
taken in arresting the radiation effects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNA-
CHALARM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). An investigation has been
carried out by experts from the Bhabha
Atomic Research Centre. The investi-
gation shows that reports of leakage of

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radiation from the Gama irradiation
facility at the Sriram Institute of Indus-
trial Research posing a health hazard to
the surrounding areas are incorrect. The
question of taking any remedial steps does
not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Jawaharlal Nehru
University Union has alleged that due to
radiation, the students, the staff and the
faculty are being affected. Government
had deputed a study team of the Bhabha
Atomic Research Centre, and had they
made the report of that team public, that
would have made the entire position clear.
That would have allayed the fear among
the public and the students. I would like
to know whether the hon. Minister is
prepared to lay that report on the Table
of the House and to make it public ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
AND MINISTER OF PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI
NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : Sir, cer-
tainly I am prepared to lay it on the
Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Thanks a lot. Has
the wish of the hon. Member been ful-
filled ?

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :
My second supplementary is whether the
report submitted by the team also carries
remarks that Jawaharlal Nehru University
is not observing the procedure which is
required to be adopted in the disposal of
radio isotopes, as a result of which the
radiation is taking place ? I would like to
know what information the Government
have in this regard ?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI :
Although this question is related to the
Department of Science, yet, since I have
been asked to reply to it, I am giving
whatever information is available with me

MR. SPEAKER : When you have agreed magnanimously, then do give it.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : It reflects your magnanimity, Sir..... (Interruptions)...So far as my information goes, this Research Centre is located in the campus of Delhi University. I do not know how it is related to Jawaharlal Nehru University. According to my information it is located in the Campus of Delhi University. An examination was made to ascertain the radiation aspect of Cobalt 60. According to their observation, the lower value of micro/rontgen here is only 8 whereas normally it should be 11-16 micro rontgen per hour in the atmosphere. Therefore, it is almost normal. But apart from this, they have formed a safety Audit Committee whose Engineer-in-charge is Shri Khurana.

[English]

Shri Krishnamurthy, Head of the Radiation Technology Division of BARC ; Shri G. Subramanian, Head of the Division of Radiological Protection, BARC and Shri M.P. Jain, Institute of Nuclear Medicine, Delhi.

[Translation]

This newly formed Safety Audit Committee will continue to keep a watch on all these things as per the guidelines that will be given by the Bhabha Atomic Research Institute and will also continue to look after the safety measures. I think, this will take care of the maintenance aspect to a great extent.

[English]

External Assistance for Pending Power Projects of Kerala

*368. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to seek external financial assistance to complete all the approved pending power projects in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b). Out of the seven power projects under execution in Kerala, Canadian assistance of Canadian Dollars 59.3 million for Idukki Hydro-electric project Stage II and World Bank assistance of U.S. Dollars 176 million for Lower Periyar hydro-electric project has been sought.

SHRI T. BASHEER : Kerala State is facing acute power shortage for the last 3 years. This has been discussed in the House a few days back and I am thankful to the hon. Minister for replying to it. Some short-term measures were taken by the Central Government. But Kerala is going to face serious shortage in the coming years. So, some long-term measures are required to meet the situation. My question is this. In this context, in the answer given by the Minister, it is stated that two projects are there regarding which the external assistance is being sought. But I would like to know what steps the Government has taken on these proposals ? May I know whether Government have taken any decision on these things ? If so what is the decision ? What are the details thereof ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I totally share the concern of the hon. Member regarding the power shortage in Kerala which had to pass through a great shortage. For the information of the hon. Member I can give the answer in four parts. There are 7 projects at present with an aggregate capacity of 714.5 m.w. which are under execution in Kerala. Out of this 530 m.w. will be available in the 7th Plan. The remaining 184.5 m.w. will be available in the 8th Plan. We are aware of the measures which are necessary for the future. Those will be available in the 8th Plan. That is already under consideration. That would be commissioned in the 8th Plan itself. Regard-