

[English]

**Utilisation of coastal shipping facilities  
by FCI**

\*197. DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India proposes to utilise coastal shipping to facilitate the movement of foodgrains ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) to what extent it will help the movement of foodgrains to reach the tribal areas in the country speedily ;

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF  
FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI  
H. K. L. BHAGAT) :(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to move approxima-  
te'y 2.64 lakh tonnes of wheat from  
Kandla and other Saurashtra Ports to  
Calcutta, Madras and Tuticorin by coastal  
shipping.

(c) Increased availability of wheat in  
Eastern and Southern regions will also  
facilitate distribution of foodgrains in the  
Integrated Tribal Development Project  
areas.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : There are  
reports that rotten foodgrains have been  
distributed amongst tribals in different  
parts of the country, by FCI. I want to  
know from the hon. Minister whether it  
is a fact ; and if so, the reasons therefor.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : I do not  
have any such information with me at the  
moment. But we have made the arrange-  
ment, viz. that in the State Government  
there should be a system of double-check-  
ing, whether it is for PDS or Integrated  
Tribal Development areas—the State  
Government should check the quality of  
foodgrains when they are released. If they  
are not satisfied, they will not be released.

Government's policy is not to give rotten  
food, I mean food which is not fit for  
consumption, anywhere.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : It is well  
known that foodgrains get sopilt due to  
moisture while they are being carried by  
ships. As such, is it a wise move to carry  
them by ships to different parts of the  
country ; what are the reasons why they  
are being carried by ships ? Was there any  
difficulty in getting them transported by  
rail or road ?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : The  
obvious reason is this. The Railways have  
been doing their job well, I must say. But  
the pressure of load on them is there.  
Firstly, we require these foodgrains more  
quickly. Secondly, by rail it takes more  
time. Therefore, we have thought it more  
advlsable and these stocks have been lying  
in some cases for more than a year. The  
demand in that area is more. So we  
thought it better to ship them more  
quickly, and utilize them for various  
purposes, for which they are required.

[Translation]

Justice to Poor.

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\*198. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR  
YADAV :  
SHRI CHIRANJI LAL  
SHARMA :

Will the Minister of LAW AND  
JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether justice is becoming beyond  
the reach of the poor and the resourceless  
people ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by  
Government to make justice inexpensive,  
simple and swift ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government is fully conscious  
of the matter and it has taken steps over

the years to provide effective and speedy justice to the people. Also, the study of judicial reforms has been entrusted to the Law Commission. Decision as to the further steps in this direction, will be taken after the Government have examined the reports of the Law Commission.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question which was asked has not been answered. The hon. Minister is well aware that as days are passing, it is becoming increasingly impossible for the poor people to get justice, because it has become expensive. The question was clear.

[*English*]

“If so, the steps being taken by the Government to make justice inexpensive, simple and swift.”

[*Translation*]

The reply given is

[*English*]

“It has taken steps over the years to provide effective and speedy justice to the people”.

[*Translation*]

Such is the evasive reply which has been furnished. Later, Law Commission was mentioned, but that relates to measures to be taken in future. The steps which have been taken at present have not been clearly stated. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what concrete steps have been taken? The fees charged by the lawyers of the High Courts and the Supreme Courts have increased enormously. How can these poor people pay huge sums of Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000? What steps are being taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : The question was regarding the poor people.

I want to reiterate that in the last 2 years we have cleared about 4 lakhs pending cases of the poor people through the Lok Adalats and compensation of about Rs. 5 crores has been provided to them through the mechanism of Lok Adalats. It was done by making the judges work on Saturdays and Sundays when they do not attend to their regular duty in the courts. It is up to you whether to appreciate it or not. It has been an important step which benefited the poor. Cases dealing with motor accidents, rent problems, matrimonial issues, lease issues, ‘Chalan’ cases about the fields of poor farmers, revenue cases etc which were pending, were settled in thousands in one day by these judges who went there personally to do so. You may also know that the poor people did not have to spend a single paisa and all cases were settled outside the courts. The parties were called and cases settled through their participation and mutual settlement. The Government has in mind a long term plan of radically changing the system. The report of the Law Commission in regard to People’s Court has been received and it is being examined. We are thinking of making it a matter of debate and we would like the judges, members of the Bar Association and other people to participate in a discussion regarding changing the present system. I agree that the lawyers in the High Courts and the Supreme Court charge exorbitant fees. We had talked very recently to the President of the Bar Association of Supreme Court and he after having discussions with the senior lawyers had reduced the fees considerably. The fees of the senior lawyers, who charged Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000/- has been reduced to Rs. 2,500. Our work in the sphere of judicial reforms is progressing fast. The work of the National Tax Board, the Labour Courts has been centralised and the work of the Central Administrative Tribunal would be decentralised and handed over to them. In this session, a Bill regarding subordinate judiciary for the benefit of the poor is being brought forward which would provide considerable relief to the poor in the matter of fees.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Whatever efforts have been made are laudable. But the question is regarding

the areas where efforts are not being made. Wherever efforts are being made, we welcome them. There are people who because of their limited income fall under the category of the poor and for whom it is difficult to approach the law courts for justice and for whom Lok Adalats have been introduced. Likewise in civil, cases of false implications, murders etc. which trouble these people very much, would the Government give them free legal aid? Are the govt. deliberating upon it?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : The scheme for Legal Aid for the poor has now taken a definite shape and we have been giving legal aid to the needy through the Central Legal Aid Committee as also the State Legal Aid Committees.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : But in Bihar it is not given.

SHRI A. K. SEN : You kindly inform me as to where it is not given.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : I can say that it is not received in Bihar.

SHRI A. K. SEN : Wherever it is not received, you submit a written complaint with full details to me.

[English]

SHRI A. K. SEN : I can tell you that the Legal Aid Committee has now taken a definite shape and we hope to bring the Free Legal Aid Bill before Parliament very soon.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chiranji Lal Sharma/Prof. Dandavate.

SHRI D. K. NAIKAR : The hon. Minister has stated that...

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Shri Naikar has worked all by himself Today.

[English]

SHRI D. K. NAIKAR : If you permit me, I will ask.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : He has been permitted to talk without permission.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He believes in the policy of self-reliance.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly answer the question asked by hon. Shri Naikarji.

[English]

SHRI D. K. NAIKAR : The hon. Minister has stated that some of the claims were entrusted to the Lok Adalats for decision. Now, the tendency of the litigant public has developed in such a way that they want a finality at the hands of the Supreme Court and the High Court. Even though the finality is given at the Lok Adalats, they are now physically fighting that the finality should be at the hands of the highest Court. Therefore, the physical fights are starting after the establishment of the Lok Adalats. What has he got to say so far as this aspect of the matter is concerned?

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : All the cases are settled in the Lok Adalats. There is no question of anybody going in appeal because they are settled outside the court by mutual settlement. There is no question of anybody being not satisfied; everybody is satisfied.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, In part (b) of the question there is a reference as to what is being done to see

that justice is given to the people, to make justice inexpensive, simple and swift. I am glad that the hon. Minister had made a reference to the Supreme Court and he had suggested certain changes that are already in the offing. I would like to ask him, this. This is besides reducing the fees of the lawyers in the Supreme Court. It is not a fact that one of the reasons for delay in the judgments of the Supreme Court is at the present point of time there are eleven vacancies in the posts of the Judges of the Supreme Court and if that is so, in order to expedite the cases by what time will you fill up all the eleven vacancies in the Supreme Court so that justice can be expeditiously given to the poor ?

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : I know that there are vacancies in the Supreme Court.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : But how long ?

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : I am answering him

But it is not merely that because of the vacancies that there has been a backlog, it has been there over the years, the accumulation has been over the years, and litigation has increased hundred times more than it was. That is why another eight judges have been appointed.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Do you mean that these eleven vacancies do not matter at all ?

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : You should have the patience to hear me. These vacancies will be filled very soon.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have the patience, but the clients must have the patience ;

SHRI A. K. SEN : May I answer Prof. Dandavate ?

I know your anxiety. Whatever names have been sent by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, have immediately been sponsored and we hope that the appointment, will come very soon. But if the Supreme Court Chief Justice has not sent eleven names, it is not the fault of the Government.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Throwing the blame on the Supreme Court !

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Shall we ask the question to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Sir ?

SHRI A. K. SEN : We have reminded the Chief Justice of India to send the names for the remaining vacancies of Judges.

MR. SPEAKER : It will go straight.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Anyway, your reply will be taken note of by him, I hope.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramswaroop Ram.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SWAROOP RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, justice is very expensive in the country and the common people are miles away from getting it. It is very difficult for them to get justice. The poor common citizen accepts the decision of the Lower Courts and spends 20 years in jail, he neither moves to the High Court or to the Supreme Court. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether arrangements have been made in every High Court and the Supreme Court for giving free legal aid to the poor ? If such arrangements are not available at present, then by which time would such arrangements be made available by the Government ?

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : Sir, a legal aid committee has been set up in the Supreme Court and legal aid committees have also been set up in the High Courts. I would like to inform the hon. Member

that there is not a single High Court in the country where such facilities are not available. This facility has been provided everywhere.

**SHRI BAGUN SUMBRUI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Ranchi High Court Bench in Bihar, not a single judge has been appointed after September. I have informed the hon. Minister about it.

**MR. SPEAKER :** It has already been covered.

(English)

They have already said.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Import of oil from OPEC

\*186. **DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to buy oil from Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in 1987 at eighteen dollars a barrel; if so, the quantity to be purchased;

(b) whether the oil is available at a lesser rate in countries other than OPEC; and

(c) if so the reasons for buying from OPEC ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) :** (a) to (c) Crude oils of only those varieties, which are required in our system, are purchased in the international market. Some of these come from the traditional sources of our supply who also happen to be members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Rise in assets of large industrial houses.

\*187. **DR. B. L. SHAILESH :**

**SHRI BHATTAM (SRIRAMA MURTY) :**

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has lately been a steep rise in the assets of the large industrial houses in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :** (a) The value of assets of large industrial houses increased by 19.7% 21.8% and 9.6% during 1983, 1984 and 1985, respectively over the preceding year.

(b) Assets of undertakings may increase due to various factors like expansion, diversification, establishment of new undertaking, modernisation, amalgamation, etc.

##### Oil deposits in Gujarat

\*189 **SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :**

**SHRI MANIK REDDY :**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether heavy oil deposits of about 110 million tons have been traced near Mehsana town in Gujarat;

(b) the number of Pilot Projects which have been taken in hand by ONGC in Gujarat for locating oil and gas; and

(c) the fund spent during 1984-85 and 1985-86 on this account in the State of Gujarat ?