

Government of the United States for purchase of machinery for installing nuclear power stations in the country, and if it is true, whether the Minister of Energy would be able to say something about it?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This does not arise out of the main Question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, last time in response to a question put by Shri Raj Kumar Rai with regard to setting up of a Thermal Power Station at Belthara road in Ballia district, the hon. Minister of Energy had said that he will ask for a report in this regard from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has since given its consent and if so, when the work will be taken up?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: We have asked for a report in this regard from the Government of Uttar Pradesh but it has not been received so far.

[*English*]

Availability of Polymers

*195. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are anticipating shortfall in the availability of polymers in the country beyond 1990; and

(b) if so, what will be the demand and supply position by 1990?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The projected demand and domestic availability of polymers in 1990-91 are 858,000 tonnes and 490,000 tonnes respectively, indicating a shortfall of 368,000 tonnes.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: The hon. Minister has admitted that the shortfall between demand and supply in 1990-91 would be 368,000 tonnes. This has necessitated the Government to indulge in large scale imports and it is contemplated to build up port facilities on the western coast to tackle the large-scale imports. May I know whether it is a fact that, if approval for the Haldia Petrochemicals had been given years ago, then we could tide over this shortfall between demand and supply and could also save the precious foreign exchange that is going to be expended--and the amount will be Rs. 800 crores.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: On the petrochemical side, we are late-starters. Our indigenous production is very low, and we are importing in 1988 2,50,000 tonnes. Next year we have to start pre petrochemical complexes. We have appointed a Committee, the Abid Hussain Committee; they are selecting the projects and we have to start more projects to meet the demand.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why don't you give approval to the Haldia Project?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Due to the criminal neglect, I must say, in giving

approval for the project for which all the papers are ready, we are not only going to lose foreign exchange worth hundreds of crores of rupees but also harming the growth of job opportunities; it will also hamper the ecological plan that the Government is making by way of our failure to replace timber and other materials by polymer products. It is a criminal neglect, I must say. I would like to know whether the Minister is prepared to tell us which agencies of the Government are responsible for this delay in giving approval to the petrochemical projects, including the Haldia Petrochemicals.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: That is a part of West Bengal Government...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It has been pending with you for the last eleven years.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: More than once I have answered this question here. All the clearances were given by our Ministry.....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What about clearance from IDBI? That has not been approved. (Interruptions)

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: They have to settle with the financial institutions. The project will cost Rs. 2,000 crores. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It is a collective responsibility. Clearance from the Finance Ministry has not been issued so far. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing, Shri Acharia? Why are you interrupting?

[English]

Without my permission how do you go to him? Anything else. That is all.

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL - Not present

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK - Not present

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH - Not present

[Translation]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Have I called your name? All right.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: This is an insult to the House. He is going out of the House. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: This is not good for this august House.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is up to him. If he wants to leave, what can I do?

[English]

Tapping of Telephones

*198. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen recent press report regarding tapping of the telephonic talks held between political leaders;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether such talks are tapped by the Telephone Department and if so, under whose instructions; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to get this investigated through an independent agency as to why the talks were tapped and at whose instance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen a report in