

SHRI I. RAMA RAI : Not me personally.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : Not you, personally, but I mean, for your State.

DR. V. VENKATESH : We are all aware that about 20 years back the Government of India in the name of getting votes got the foundation stone laid for a plant in Karnataka by the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi. So far nothing has been done. I want to know whether it is just to cheat the voters, or whether they are going to do it? I want a categorical answer. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Is the word "cheat" a parliamentary word?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : I can tell the Hon. Member only one thing: That we know how best to serve the people because we represent them.

DR. V. VENKATESH : The Hon. Minister does not know anything about Karnataka. What do you know? For 20 years it is going on...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Venkatesh, what are you trying to prove? What are you trying to do? Nothing goes on record. I have not allowed him. Mr. Venkatesh, you can put a question like a gentleman. Why have you to be sarcastic about it? Put a question. That is all. This is not the way.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way. You have also been there. You cannot incriminate like this. Mind your language. I do not like it. This is not the way. Just remain in your senses and talk sense. Be reasonable. You should not behave like that.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Let him answer the question. Let the Minister answer the question. He has not answered.

MR. SPEAKER : What is the problem? Is there any question? Do not interrupt. If you get so much agitated there is no question for answering. It is lost in tension. This is not the way to ask a question. I do not like it, and this is not the way to ask a question.

*Not recorded.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : Shall I reply to it Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : The best thing is that you can reply something.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : Perhaps, he thought that I will get confused by the question the Hon. Member has asked. Let him remain under confusion, but I would not like to be confused myself.

The question pertains to sponge iron and does not pertain to any steel plant or any other integrated steel plant or any other mini steel plant. Perhaps his problem is about Vijayanagar Steel Plant. The Hon. Member is welcome to see me and discuss with me. He can ask any relevant question at an appropriate time. I will be able to reply and I will be able to tell the Hon. Member what the State Government is doing.

Integrated Container Terminal at Cochin Port

*85. **PROF. K. V. THOMAS :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for setting up of an integrated container terminal at Cochin has been accepted;

(b) whether order has been placed for a new dredger for Cochin Port;

(c) if so, the price of the proposed new dredger; and

(d) the new equipments sanctioned for handling containers at Cochin Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The proposal to set up an Integrated Container Terminal at Cochin Port is under consideration.

(b) and (c). Tenders for the dredger have been received.

(d) The new equipments envisaged in the proposal under consideration are :

(i) quayside gantry cranes	2 Nos.
(ii) Transfer cranes	2 Nos.
(iii) Tractor Heads	19 Nos.

- (iv) Trailors 16 Nos.
 (v) Small Forklifts 15 Nos.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Sir, Cochin Port was once called the queen of the Arabian Sea. Now this port is in such a crippled stage and had become the widow of the Arabian sea. There has been proposals to modernise the Cochin Port. One proposal was for the integrated container terminal in the Port and the second thing was for starting an international container terminal at Vallarpadam island which is a newly reclaimed island by the port itself. If this international terminal can be started at Vallarpadam, then all the international ships having the containers, which are now using Colombo as a station for transferring these containers, can make use of Cochin for this purpose. So, I would like to know what has happened to the second proposal of having an international container terminal project at Vallarpadam.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : There is a suggestion about a transshipment terminal at Vallarpadam. However, this is at a very very preliminary stage and various aspects are being thought about it through this suggestion about the preparation of feasibility report, terms of reference and all the other processes that are concerned with the initiation of any implementation of such a suggestion. As I said, it is still a suggestion and thinking on this suggestion is still at a very preliminary stage.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : There are two projects. One is to modernise the present Cochin Port for containerisation and the second is the Vallarpadam project. The another thing is that Cochin had a dredger called 'Lady Wellington' which was working for more than one hundred years and now it is out of commission. There is a proposal with the Government of India to have a new dredger. Now the present position in Cochin Port is that about fifty per cent of the income of the Cochin Port is being given to the Dredging Corporation of India just for doing the dredging work. So, the Cochin Port would like to have its own dredger. This proposal is with the Government of India for more than ten years. Now they asked for tenders and tenders are with the Government. So, I would request the Government to take an immediate decision

so that atleast the income of the Cochin Port remains with the Cochin Port, otherwise more than fifty per cent of the income is being transferred to the Dredging Corporation of India.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the Hon. Member is correct in saying that Lady Wellington has outlived her economic life and it is very necessary to acquire a new dredger. The Ministry has already taken a decision to acquire such a new dredger. The tender responses are under evaluation and I think we should be in a position to take some decision in the next few months.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, the main handicap of the Cochin Port is the linkage. This is a man-made island where wharfing is taking place, but it is not connected by proper roads. One Bristow who founded it, made two bridges and they are still in use. But they have outlived their life. This is always a great bottleneck. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any proposal before the Government to link this port with the southern side of Cochin, that is, with the Alleppy district area where a national level road can be constructed. On the other side, this road can be connected with the Ernakulam mainland of Kerala. So, I would like to know whether there is any such proposal pending with the Government, and if not, whether the Government will consider this proposal and revive the present condition of the Cochin Port.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, these are very precise details of the proposal. I will certainly make enquiries and inform the Hon. Member. However, I would have imagined that the setting up of the integrated container terminal of such a large size would have involved a study of the development of the infrastructure in a comprehensive manner. But I cannot tell the Hon. Member whether this is a part of the proposal. However, I will make enquiries and let the Hon. Member know.

Staff strength at the Indian Language
 Department of Banaras Hindu
 University

*86 **SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI :**
 Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE