

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 8, 1989/Sravana 17,  
1911 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

#### HBJ Pipeline Through Saurashtra

\*303. DR. DIGVIJAY SINH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for one of the two HBJ Pipeline to pass through pipavav in Saurashtra before joining them together in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether a feasibility report has been made in this regard; and

(c) when a decision will be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (c). There is no proposal to take the HBJ Pipeline through Pipavav in Saurashtra.

DR. DIGVIJAY SINH: Sir, you will agree with me that perhaps there is no region in the

whole of India so isolated and farther away from sources of energy. Then, this Peninsula of Saurashtra tucked away on the western most corner of the country far away from sources, whether it is coal, whether it is gas or whether it is hydro. And therefore, a proposal has been made by the State Government. Whether it is accepted by the Centre or not it is a different matter, but a proposal has been made by the State Government of having a part of the HBJ pipeline having a landfall in Hazira and another part of the landfall at Pipavav because in Pipavav there is already a 600 MW thermal power station coming up and it is approved by the Government. So, the gas from Tapti High is going to come in any case to Pipavav to feed that thermal electricity plant. So, why not have half of the HBJ pipeline coming to Pipavav and go through Saurashtra and the other half to Hazira and the two should meet at Panchmahals in Gujarat and then go further on to Jagdishpur? So, this is the proposal. The proposal from the Gujarat Government has come and appeals have come from every corner of Gujarat State. Why can't the Government at least accept the fact that here is a part of Gujarat or rather a part of India, i.e. Saurashtra, which is energy starved? Therefore, why should we not consider this proposal that has come from the State of Gujarat?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Minister.... I am sorry, hon. Member. He was the Minister of State here.

The question is somewhat confused. The HBJ pipeline is from Hazira to Bijaipur and Jagdishpur and now to Delhi. But we are aware of the necessity of Saurashtra and I have got the map here. Fortunately, to the

south of Saurashtra and to the south of Pipavav, this Tapti Gas Field has been discovered. Now, we have a proposal to develop this Gas Field and the line will be taken directly from this Tapti Gas Field to Pipavav. Of course, the power plant is to be established here. We will supply gas to it and the details of the project have to be prepared by the Power Department or by the State Government who will implement it. We have got a proposal to develop this and lay a pipeline directly from Tapti to Pipavav. Joining Saurashtra to other parts of Gujarat will be a very costly affair. But we have got another proposal also to join Kalol to Ankleshwar, laying a grid which will be more useful and the optimum utilisation of gas will be possible through this. So, I entirely agree with the spirit of the question, but the HBJ pipeline will be HBJ pipeline only.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: There is a saying in Punjabi—

'Pancha da akhya sir mathe, parnala othe hi girega.'

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: 'Parnala' is falling in Pipavav. He is requesting about Saurashtra and I agree to that.

[*English*]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Sir, the Minister replied about Ankleshwar to Kalol would be an alignment totally outside the Saurashtra peninsula. Therefore, what I specially say is that, in any case gas is going to be sent from the Tapti High to Pipavav to feed the 600 MW power station. Then why can't this be considered to have a part of the HBJ pipeline which can go beyond Delhi or wherever it is. The HBJ pipeline can be half put in Hazira and the other in Pipavav so that the two can meet in Gujarat itself and from there go to Jagdispur or to Delhi. Therefore, would the Government consider examining this proposal in depth and study the feasibility of this to ascertain whether there are any shortfalls?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, how can we bifurcate the HBJ pipeline? I fail to understand. I have already submitted that we are laying a pipeline from Tapti to Pipavav and it will be developed in Saurashtra according to the availability of gas in Tapti Gas Field which is more productive. We are aware of the difficulties of Saurashtra, but I was talking only of the financial viability and the desirability of having the maximum benefit at a lower cost.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Could the proposal be examined?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: All the proposals made by the Gujarat Government and other agencies are under our active consideration.

SHRI C.P. THAKUR: Sir, in a recent meeting, the Prime Minister has announced that the gas pipeline will be extended to Bihar. Power and fertiliser are in short supply.

MR. SPEAKER: No; next question.

#### **Mass Leave by Public Sector Undertaking Officers**

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\*304. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP:  
SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector undertaking officers observed mass leave on 11 July, 1989;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and how many persons joined the mass leave;

(c) the details of their demands and the action taken by Government thereon; and

(d) whether they have threatened to go on indefinite strike?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.