

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, July 31, 1985/Sravana 9,
1907 (SAKA)*

Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Implementation Schedules for Major Projects

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*121. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :
DR. G. S. RAJHANS :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission have asked various Ministries to revise their implementation schedules for certain major projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how the major projects will be completed in time and what would be the fate of the on-going projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) No. Sir, Planning Commission had suggested that the Ministries could revise their project schedules in respect of Central Projects costing over Rs. 100 crores only in such cases where the budget allocations for 1985-86 were substantially less than their requirements.

(b) Following the Planning Commission's suggestion, commissioning dates have been revised only in the case of three out of the

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eighty two major Central Projects costing over Rs. 100 crores.

(c) Only a small proportion of the major projects have revised their commissioning dates and in their case also efforts will be made to ensure that the slippage is minimised.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : May I know from the Minister which are the three projects out of the 82 Central Projects that have been delayed and the reasons thereof ?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : The three projects are :

- (1) Cachar Paper Project
- (2) Caprolactam Aluminium Sulphate Project (FACT); and
- (3) Koraput Raygada Railway Line.

The reason is shortage of funds. Originally allotted amount was not available for these projects and that is why the Planning Commission suggested to them that they may revise their implementation schedule.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What does revision mean ?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Revision means.....

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, you cannot do that Mr. Narayanan. Mr. Saha has put the question, not Mr. Amal Datta, I won't allow this.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You are an illegal questioner.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : That was a clarification and not a question. Because revision means many things —

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Sir, may I know whether it is a fact that in the case of Vishakapatnam Steel Plant, the cost of

steel may be twice than that of imported steel by the time the project is implemented ?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Well, this is something which normally happens. The cost escalation is normal. But if you have any specific question about the steel plant, I will direct it to the Minister concerned.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : How is it natural ? Should it mean that it should become more than the cost of imported steel. It is the opinion of the Planning Commission that it is normal due to cost escalation.

MR. SPEAKER : What more elaboration can there be ? It is not a debate. What more answer can be given ?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : The estimates were of course made. First of all I would like to say that the actual performance of the plant itself concerns the Administrative Ministry which is in-charge-of this. The Member asked all the details about the Vizag Plant. From the Planning Commission we will not be able to give that. But generally speaking according to our calculations the cost escalation will be taken into account as much as possible, but we cannot foresee all the changes that take place.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : I want to know if any of the projects concerns Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER : You have not seen escalation. I have gone and found out.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Koraput Raygada Railway Project is one such project which has been delayed. All other projects have given us the period of delay anticipated. e.g. the Cachar Paper Project would be delayed by eight months and the FACT Project by two months. No indication was made by the Koraput Raygada Railway Project as to how long it will be delayed. But every effort is being made to speed up and make good the delay.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The Hon. Prime Minister has time and again emphasized the need to concentrate on vital on-going projects rather than taking up too many projects so that our resources are not spread too thin and the cost-effectiveness is maximised. Against this background will the

Planning Commission be pleased to consider categorising of the projects in the country into 3 or 4 broad categories ? Firstly, the top priority projects where resources shall not be a constraint. Secondly, something like an amber channel where clearance is given and resources will be made available to the extent possible and the third category of projects is that where even though clearance is given, no investment shall be made until the project is categorised in one or the other earlier category. This would obviate giving unnecessary expectations to the people which will in turn make the lives of people's representatives miserable.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : I have just received an urgent message. With the permission of the members and with your permission I may be allowed to just go for about 10 minutes and come back to the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Please go.

SOME HON-MEMBERS : Permission granted.

MR. SPEAKER : You are too magnanimous.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : What he said that there should be some type of categorisation is a very valid point. All these projects which we have undertaken that is the 82 projects which have been sanctioned and which are in the implementation stage are actually priority projects. Though there have been some shortfalls in funds this year—it is for this year – the shortfalls have not been such as not to be made up. We are confident that the shortfalls can be made up by re-arrangement and other adjustments and we can go ahead with these projects and delay can be shortened. But I would agree with the Hon. Member that some kind of priority should be given in a certain order and that is what roughly taken into account. But when you come to rigid institutionalised schedules and priorities, much will depend on the resources position as it emerges.

Pay Scales of Foreign Nationals Employed by Air India

*122. **SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :** Will the Minister of TOURISM