

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Wednesday August 31, 1988/
Bhadra 9, 1910 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
Why are you in black, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : For your information, this is not black. This is blue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : What is the matter ? Today you are looking very smart, Sir.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Today, you are wearing blue, that is why Shri Dandavate has not come today.

MR. SPEAKER : You have very sharp eyes.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Bairagis have such eyes.

MR. SPEAKER : That is right.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Electronics units of BEL in Gujarat

*428 SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of electronics units

proposed to be established in Gujarat by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan by the Bharat Electronics Limited ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : BEL does not have any proposal to establish electronics units in Gujarat within the Seventh Five Year Plan period.

SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : The main objective of this public undertaking, Bharat Electronics Ltd. is to produce defence equipment like radars and communication equipment like radio relay for the army and for that purpose, this public undertaking is under the Ministry of Defence. I would like to know what is the total amount of production and what is the share of Defence equipment and civilian customers.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : BEL is one of our very good electronic industries in our country and it is not only supplying to the Defence, it also meets the requirements of the All India Radio, Doordarshan, wireless, Posts and Telegraphs etc. In money value, I can say that in 1985-86, the production value was Rs. 226.01 crores and in 1986-87 it was Rs. 326.91 crores and in 1987-88 it went up to Rs. 411.94 crores. In 1988-89 action plan, the value of production is Rs. 470.00 crores. I cannot say the exact amount between the civil and defence but, as the hon. Member has asked the question on this, I can say that 58% is towards Defence and 42% is towards civil needs.

SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : The hon. Minister has given the reply that "BEL does not have any proposal to establish electronics units in Gujarat within the Seventh Five Year Plan period." The

hon. Minister has replied without any sympathy.

Out of nine production units in the whole country, no unit is set up in Gujarat. Gujarat is very good electronics industrial zone and many small units are producing electronics equipment. I would like to know if there is any proposal in the Seventh Plan. What is the strategy of the 8th Plan? Will the hon. Minister, who is my friend and who has also sympathy for Gujarat, consider to set up at least one unit in Gujarat during the 8th Plan?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : If my Ministry can set up one unit in Gujarat, then I will be happy. I have all sympathy for Gujarat. We have only nine units and they are all public enterprises. We will work out the 8th Plan. But I cannot say now anything as to when BEL will be able to set up a unit in Gujarat.

Nuclear power plants with Soviet help

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*429 **SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN :**

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) where two nuclear power plants are to be set up in the country with Soviet assistance ; and

(b) if so, the terms agreed upon by both the countries for setting up these plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b) Soviet Union has offered setting up in India of a nuclear power station consisting of two units each of 1000 MWe pressurised light water reactors using enriched uranium as fuel. The terms are under consideration of the Government.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Sir, I would like to know whether the Indian Nuclear Scientists have any reservation on the safety aspects of the Soviet reactor design and also whether it is a fact that the Russians themselves are not highly satisfied because of the shortcomings of this Soviet Nuclear Plant. *Pravda* has published an article on May 20, this year, by academician Legasov who had subsequently committed suicide pinpointing the weaknesses of their nuclear power plants. If that is so, what is the reaction of the hon. Minister to that ?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Sir, our Scientists have gone very thoroughly into the safety aspects of the Soviet nuclear plant offered to us. What the hon. Member has stated is in respect of another type of Soviet nuclear power plant the Chernobyl type. What we are getting from the Soviet Union is not a Chernobyl type reactor, but what is called the VVER in Soviet terms equivalent to what the rest of the world call the PWR i.e. pressurised Light Water Reactors. These reactors have been established to be some of the safest reactors developed in the world, unlike the Chernobyl one which had certain safety defects. Apart from that, operationally also there was some human and management error at Chernobyl which created this tragic accident. So, our Scientists, particularly the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, have looked into the safety and engineering aspects of the VVER type reactors offered by the Soviet Union to India and they have in principle accepted with the safety features in it. As I said, in the Soviet Union itself, I think there are about 25 reactors of this type. In the world also, there are a large number of reactors which have been established to be some of the safe reactors.

About the suicide of the Russian nuclear Scientist, his article was mainly concerned with the Chernobyl type reactors. He says that several Soviet Scientists have worried about the defects of this. But, his main point was not about the technological factor but about the mistakes in management and also in instrumentation in the Chernobyl type of reactors.