

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

—
Monday April 1, 1985/
Chatta 11, 1907 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

—
INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : It seems you are the only stalwart present here today.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : OF course, we are meeting you after a long interval.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : The Hon. Prime Minister to introduce the Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have pleasure in introducing to you and to the House Shri Chandrashekar Singh Ji, Minister of State for Supplies and Textiles, a Minister of State with independent charge.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : The face is quite familiar. It seems we know you.

[*English*]

PROF. N. G. RANGA : You must excuse him for his temporary leave from the House.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Is it a new department which has been

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created? 'Textiles' has been taken out from the Ministry of Commerce, I take it. Is it for Textiles alone?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Yes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will it include cotton and jute and all textiles or only cotton?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : All textiles.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : We must know where we put our questions.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Purchase of Deep Sea Trawlers

*263 SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any fishing trawlers are purchased by Union Government for deep sea fishing;

(b) if so, the number of such fishing trawlers purchased during each of the last three years; and

(c) whether Government propose to manufacture such fishing trawlers within the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):(a) and (b) : No, Sir.

(c) The Government have been encouraging manufacture of deep sea fishing vessels within the country in the public as well as private sector.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : The answer is not satisfying. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the art of deep-sea fishing is a highly specialised one.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you speaking from the experience you gained ?

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : It requires sophisticated technology. It is not like fishing near the coast ; it is not a daily or weekly affair. The trawlers have to be in the deep sea and high sea for months together to catch fish. In this connection, I would like to submit that we get lot of foreign exchange by exporting shrimps and other kinds of fish which we catch in the deep sea waters. The Prime Minister has just introduced Shri Chandrashekhar Singh ji, the Minister of Textiles. We are encouraging export of garments ; we are encouraging export of diamonds. In the same way, for export of shrimps and other kinds of fish, we have to give special attention. The people of other foreign countries come and do poaching in our areas. It is done near Madras harbour also. Keeping all these things in view, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what kind of encouragement is being given in the matter of manufacture of deep-sea fishing trawlers.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I agree with the Hon. Member that the latest benefits of deep-sea fishing have not been developed in this country to the desired extent.

The Government policy towards deep sea fishing industry is to encourage Indian entrepreneurs to introduce as many deep sea fishing vessels as possible in the shortest possible time in order to optimally utilise the available fishery resources in the 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zone. During the Sixth Five Year Plan, revised target for introducing deep sea fishing vessels is 200. There were 75 such vessels at the end of 1984. A plan provision of Rs. 50 crores has been made for the grant of soft loans through Shipping Development Fund Committee for

acquisition of various types of fishing vessels during the Sixth Plan. Sir, so far as coaching is concerned, Government is taking strict measures to see that coaching is restricted from our coastal lines.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has mentioned about 75 trawlers. I understand that there are some companies like EID Parry, Indian Tobacco Company, New India Fisheries, Tata Mills, etc. The companies which are engaged in fishing have purchased trawlers from outside by spending some foreign exchange. The trawlers are there and the deep sea fishing is going on. But I feel that some specialised training is required for the personnel who are engaged in this kind of deep-sea fishing. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there are some arrangements made by the Ministry for giving this kind of training to our personnel.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Yes, there are some activities and facilities available with the Government of India for providing training for our fishing industry. Sir, the Government of India has established training centres at various places for imparting training to our fishermen. In order to provide man power for the fishing industry, Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training has trained 2242 trainees upto 1982-83 in various courses of which 1664 are in Fishing Second Hands and Engine Driver courses and the rest are in auxiliary courses like Boat Building Foremen, Gear Technician, Radio Telephone Operators etc. The physical targets and achievements are like this. In the Sixth Plan, in the main courses, the likely achievement was 651 and in the Seventh Plan, the Plan Target is 600. For fishing second hand trainees, the Seventh Plan Target for Junior Deckhand is 27 and for Engine Driver trainees the figures are 5, 14 and 10. For Ancillary Courses, the target for the Sixth Plan was 335 and the projected target for the Seventh Plan is 200 and the projected target for Short-term

courses is 150. For the Refresher courses, the target for the Sixth Plan, the figure was 89 and the projected target is 150 for the Seventh Plan. So, this is how the government is dealing in the matter of training of fishing personnel in the country.

SHRI ANAND GAJAPATHI RAJU : I would like to put a relative supplementary in this connection. The Hon. Minister has said that fishing is done in the 200 nautical miles by small boat owners and the coast guards by mechanised boats. Now in these areas trawlers and mechanised boats are used for fishing purposes. Under these circumstances, the small fishermen are badly affected. Will the Hon. Minister give assurance that the interests of the small fishermen will be looked after and they will be given protection ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : If you look at the figures in respect of fishing vessels used for deep sea fishing, you will know the facts. The number of non-mechanised boats is 1,53,495 as against mechanised boats. The number of mechanised boats used for fishing is 19,796. But these are not deep-sea fishing trawlers. There are only 83 larger vessels for deep sea fishing purposes. Moreover, the larger and major shipping vessels are fishing only to the extent provided under the Act. They are not depriving the traditional fishermen fishing on the coastal areas. They are not affected at all. But we will take notice of the suggestion made by the Hon. Member. If the ordinary fishermen are deprived by the mechanised boats, we will take the strictest steps.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : The Minister spoke about building trawlers within the country and he also gave us the list of a programme of training for fishermen. I think, this only confirms that deep sea fishing is a new area, where we do not have the requisite technology. I would like to know whether at least the Government has

made a survey and estimate of the fish population within our economic zone, and how much of that has been fished by ourselves. I am asking that question because I know, there is a great deal of poaching into our economic zone. The South Koreans have been poaching there, the Chinese have been poaching there, the Thais have been poaching there and Japanese have been poaching there. Our economic zone is almost a free area for these people. Occasionally, we read in the newspapers of our Navy intercepting some of these people and arresting them.

I would like to know what is the estimated fish population in our economic zone.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : Fish potential.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Yes, fish potential or the fishable fish. How much has been fished by our own people. Secondly, what has been the number of poaching by foreign vessels within our economic zone for the last two years ? How many of them have been intercepted and how many have got away ? Is it a fact that some fishing countries have offered us cooperation in the technology ? If so, why have we not taken advantage of this offer ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : We have done a scientific survey of our resources in fishery field. It has been estimated that our exclusive economic zone with an area of about two million square kms can support an annual yield of 4.5 million tonnes of fish. At present, we are harvesting only 1.6 million tonnes, about one third of this potential. It is really very low ; I agree with the Hon. Member. Even this quantity comes largely from shallow coastal waters extending to about 70 metre depth; it does not come from the deep sea. The present contribution of larger mechanised vessels in deeper waters is about one per cent of the

total landings. It is estimated that about 99 per cent of our total marine catch is confined to 15-20 per cent of our exclusive economic zone. Much of the future additional landing would necessarily come from the off-shore and deep sea fishing. Even if our immediate objective is to double the present production, a very large fleet of fishing vessels is required which in turn will involve huge capital outlay.

For this exercise, we can go in two ways. At the moment, we do not have our own deep sea fishing vessels with us. We have either to acquire them or charter them. For temporary phase, the Government policy is that we are allowing chartering of the deep sea fishing trawler and as and when we acquire our own vessels, whether through indigenous manufacturing, or acquiring them from the other developed countries in this sector, till then we have to depend mostly on the chartered vessels. It is true that in the chartered vessels, there is a risk always, because this deep sea fishing is such a fishy business; they do not come to the coast; from the operation itself, they proceed to the countries for exporting the fish. Frankly speaking, we have no record, what is the catch, and how much is sold. We only have to depend on those trawlers, which are fishing in the deep sea and on their reports, we have to base our production. I agree with the Hon. Member that chartering business is not very useful to the country. We will have to do much in this respect.

At the moment, in the country, the fishing vessel construction capacity is within the 24 shipping yards on both east and west coast of India. Thirteen registered shipyard construction companies are specially provided for fishing vessels.

The total capacity approximately is 40 to 50 vessels per year and the details about capacity, I can read out if you kindly permit me, that is, each ship builder by name. But it will take more time of the House. But I realise the enormity of the situation and we are trying to see that the deep sea fishing,

as far as possible, is within the purview of our fishing industry and our own indigenous deep sea fishing vessels are created inside the country. But till that time, we have to depend on this chartering system. It is a common practice in the international fishing.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Sir, I only want to have a point of clarification. In order to minimise coaching, I would like to ask whether we agree with collaboration with some fishing nations. In that case, the fish does not go out. We can also to a great extent check the poaching, the stealing of our fish by foreign countries. That is my question.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Even under the present chartering system, our people who are interested in deep sea fishing, have been given permission to enter into a kind of working cooperation with the fishing countries, especially of the South East Asian region. We have a large number of requests pending before us and we are dealing with each of them on merit.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, before I put the question, I would like to remind Prof. Swell that not only foreign vessels are encroaching on our zone, but in this very House, Congress is also encroaching on the Opposition Zone. My question is . . .

MR. SPEAKER : Isn't it a legal encroachment Sir ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : It is high sea.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Since the Hon. Minister has referred to mechanised boats, I would like to put a specific question. Is it not a fact that as far as the present budgetary provisions are concerned, for those people who use big boats with horse power bigger than 150, there is actually a concession and an exemption on excise duty on diesel ? But for those boats, whose engines' horse power is less than 150, i.e. the weaker sections among the fishermen, no relief is available. On

the contrary they are demanding that they should be given 100 per cent relief. Will the Hon. Minister use his good offices with the Finance Minister and will the Finance Minister use his good offices with the Prime Minister to see that these fishermen's demands can be met?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : It is quite a long chain.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : It is true that there is a scheme for providing rebate on central excise duty on high speed diesel used by vessels of 13.7 fitted with engines 150 horse power. This scheme came into effect in 1968 and it is continuing. It contains a rebate of 50 per cent excise duty whether exports are made or not. The additional rebate of 50 per cent excise duty is given on each 108 kilo litre of diesel for per tonne prawn exported. As the Hon. member has made this request, the Hon. Finance Minister is very much here. I am sorry, he is not here, but the Hon. Prime Minister is here. If the request can be considered for the smaller boats which are using lesser horse power capacity engines, it will go a long way in helping the fishermen.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I would request the Agriculture Minister to do as Prof. Dandavate said and then go through the Finance Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : He has steered the right course.

[*Translation*]

Agricultural University For Rajasthan

*264. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no full-fledged Agricultural University in Rajasthan and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government propose to

set up an Agricultural University in Rajasthan also like other states; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) There is at present no separate Agricultural University in Rajasthan. An Agricultural University viz. Rajasthan Agricultural University, Udaipur was established in the year 1962. It was however, converted by the State Government into a general university named the "Udaipur University" in 1963. In August 1983 the university was again converted into the Mohan Lal Sukhadia Agricultural University but after a few months the university was renamed as Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, in the year 1983 itself.

(b) Agricultural Universities are State Government institutions to be established under an Act passed by the State Legislature. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been constantly urging the State Government to establish a separate Agricultural University in the State. The Government of Rajasthan, however, have not done so till now.

(c) Specific action in this regard is to be taken by the State Government. All the other Sixteen major States have established separate Agricultural Universities.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir Twenty two Agriculture Universities have been established in 16 States, but there is none in Rajasthan. Sir, you and the Hon. Minister