

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 26, 1985,
Sravana 4, 1907 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER Question No. 61
—Mr. Satyagopal Misra.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :
Sir, the Question Branch of the Lok Sabha Secretariat has informed me that this question will be transferred to the Ministry of Chemicals and will come up at a later date. But I have got the paper now. What can be done ?

MR. SPEAKER : Do it,

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : I accept it.

(*Interruptions*)

Haldia Petro Chemical project

*61. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the proposed Haldia Petro-chemical project in the joint sector, Government are willing to make a suitable provision in the States' Plan (West Bengal) by appropriate upward adjustment;

(b) whether Government propose to instruct financial institutions to provide necessary support to the venture of the State Government;

(c) the steps taken so far, if any, by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) It is for the Government of West Bengal to decide its own priorities and provide for necessary funding of the Haldia Petro-chemical project within the approved Plan outlay of the State. The Planning Commission have already informed the State Government that they would be willing to consider adjustments in the State Plan if additional resources are mobilised by the State.

(b) The question of Government of India instructing financial institutions to provide necessary support to this venture of the State Government does not arise as the institutions have to take their own decision on loan applications based on the merits of each case. The project Authorities are free to approach the financial institutions for assistance.

(c) & (d) Do not arise.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :
After a lot of controversy for a long period of more than 7 years, at last the Petro-chemical complex of Haldia is coming up. We must be happy about it. The hon. Minister has stated that the Planning Commission had agreed to consider adjustments in the State Plan if additional resources are mobilised by the State. The Seventh Plan allocation has not taken a concrete final shape. The State Government has agreed only to the first year's allocation of the Seventh Plan. In view of the fact that the State Government has taken a decision to go into a joint venture to set up a petro-chemical complex in Haldia, will the Government of India reconsider the proposed Seventh Plan allocation for the State of West Bengal and enhance the amount of Central assistance in this respect ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :
 Sir, so far as the Seventh Plan of West Bengal State is concerned, the plan outlay has been approved, i.e., Rs. 4,125 crores. So far as the additional resources that are found with the Central Government is concerned, as the hon. Member knows that we have got a limitation, we have got resource constraint also. Now, it is for the State Government to re-order the priorities and then adjust this Haldia Petro-chemical Project, or they have to find additional resources. Then only you can have this project. As you know, the Planning Commission approved and the Central Government also has given Rs. one crore for the Seventh Plan and Rs. 10 lakhs for the current plan.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :
 Sir, it is true that for obtaining loan from the banks or from the other financial institutions, certain procedural steps should have to be taken, but at the same time the attitude of the Central Government is also a very important factor in this respect. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the attitude of the Government of India in directing the banks and other financial institutions in sanctioning loans or speedy disposal of the loan application concerned with the setting up of a Petro-chemical complex at Haldia?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :
 Here, it is for the financial institutions to look into the proposal. I am told that so far the proposals have not been sent to IDBI or any financial institution.

When the proposals have been placed before them, they will process the application and take their own decision. They will take into consideration all the aspects, they will take into consideration the resources available with them and then a decision will be taken by them. They take their own decision.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : May I know from the hon.

Minister whether he is aware of the fact that Haldia Petro-chemical Project which is long pending and the news about that just now come before the people of Bengal that it is being finalised, is a joint sector project, i.e. participation by the West Bengal Government and by another monopoly house, R. P. Goenka, Sanjiv Goenka and their associates? I would like to know has he ever ascertained from the Government of West Bengal the terms and conditions and the actual participation of this State Government and the Goenkas into the project and the responsibility to be carried thereby by the Government of India through the financial institutions in terms of shares and other issues. So far, we have ascertained that 33.33% will be given by R.P. Goenka, 33.33% by Government of West Bengal, 33.33% or 33.34% by public shares and the rest of the amount will be coming from the public financial institutions. If the proposal has reached you, will you ascertain from the West Bengal Government about the terms and conditions and about the proposals of the project? Otherwise, the whole thing is in the cloud. The West Bengal Government is telling that the Centre is not helping it. We are told that the Centre has not received the proposal. What is this? A lot of politics is being played in West Bengal. We have to clear this cloud.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dump the politics into the sea and construct the Haldia project.

SHRI MATI GEF FA MUKHERJEE : Politics is connected with Haldia.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :
 Here the agreement stipulates that the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation will have the share of 26%. R. P. Goenka, Sanjiv Goenka and their associates will have 25%. Regarding the public issues, they have not stated the public institutions. They have stated public issues. That is, about 49%. These are the stipulations. It is for the State Government to clarify whether they want this entire 49% from the financial institutions.

Now, the IDBI has received one letter saying that the project requires a finance loan of Rs. 500 crores.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Who wrote the letter ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : It is from the Haldia Petro-chemical West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir, in the Newspapers which appeared a few days back, there was report that in the meeting of the Legislature Wing of the Congress-I party, attended by the Members of Parliament also, the Finance Minister himself was present.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Don't refer to Congress-I. It is unparliamentary.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: I do not know. If it is so, then I will take some other name. But the fact remains so. In the Press, there was a report that this particular meeting had requested the Finance Minister not to give any financial support to these Goenkas towards this project.

Now, as far as I am concerned, I consider all of them to be as good or as bad as anybody else. I am not pleading here for Goenka. But I am interested to know whether the same standard will be applied to the other projects of Goenkas, as they may be having projects all over the country. Or, is it a fact that the West Bengal Congress-I Legislature Party thought it fit to raise this question only when our Government, falling from the Central Government getting the joint sector with the Central Government, entered into a contract with the Goenkas ?

I would like to get the clarification from the hon. Minister...

MR. PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : We demand more money from the Centre.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you shouting ?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : After their links have been revealed, they are now....

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Look here, listen to me, what are you doing ? Why are all of you speaking at a time ? The Minister will reply to it.

[English]

We have heard it.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: My first point was...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Tewaryji, why are you interrupting ?

[English]

Why are you shouting so much about it ? He has heard it.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: I want to ask three questions.

(a) Whether this press report is true.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Let the hon. Minister reply.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Gupta, you should not interrupt, let him speak. I am asking him. why are you interrupting ? I shall ask him myself, why are you speaking ?

(Interruption)

You are again interrupting, Mr. Gupta ?

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

(b) What is the reaction of the hon. Minister of Finance who seemed to have assured them that it will be done; and

(c) If so, whether the same standard will be applied everywhere against the Goenkas, Tatas, and Birlas?

SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA :

I was present in that meeting.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister reply. When have you taken over his responsibility?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :

At no time we have said that we are not going to give funds from the financial institutions. We have not said it. What we have said is that there is financial constraint.

About the associations of Shri R.P. Goenka and the treatment to be meted out to you, all these things you better know and also you are the people who said that West Bengal Government has associated with them.

So far as the permission for them is concerned, Central Government has to give permission because it is MRTP Company.

Coming to the point whether they are meted out step-motherly treatment, whether there are politics injected and what is the assistance that is given to West Bengal, let us understand quietly what has happened and whether the resources required have been supplied or not.

(Interruptions)

It is for your information also.

During the Sixth Five Year Plan, the Plan outlay was Rs. 3,500 crores for West Bengal. The State Government promised to contribute Rs. 2,178 crores. But how much they raised during the Sixth Five Year Plan? Instead of raising Rs. 2,168 crores, they raised

only Rs. 302 crores. What is the promise given by the Central Government? Central Government promised to give Rs. 680 crores during the Sixth Five Year Plan. Actually, we have given Rs. 761 crores. Not only this. We have given Rs. 414 crores as medium term loan. In all, we have given about Rs. 500 crores more during the Sixth Five Year Plan. What is the ultimate result? How much have they been able to perform? Instead of having a plan outlay of Rs. 3,500 crores...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is replying whether there is a step-motherly treatment or not. Why are you interrupting?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the proper way. He is only doing something which he must do. He cannot please you by his answer. He has to give the facts. That is what it is. If he goes against facts, I will pull him up. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has asked him whether they are meting out step-motherly treatment, and that is what he is answering to. He will also have to answer. He cannot give answers to please you. He has to give the facts. So simple it is.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : However high you may shout, it does not make any difference to me. This is improper, improper and improper. I did not expect it from you. Mr. Amal Datta.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : You are doing it presently. You are persistently doing it. If he does not give the answer to the other part, I will ask him to give it. Why are you agitated? You keep silent.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. Whatever he has said does not form part of the record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Tewary, why do you interrupt ? You take your seat...

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : You disciplin. them, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Why should you take this responsibility on yourself ? You should not take upon yourself this responsibility.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Amal Datta, this is wrong, this is improper on your part. This is not the way to do.

You cannot dictate things like this. This is absolutely improper.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you holding the House to ransom ? Do you think that it is going to benefit you ? Please sit down, This is very improper on your part. Very bad, Absolutely improper and uncalled for, You cannot interject like this.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Saifuddin Chowdhary, please sit down, I am very sorry, even educated people behave like this. I am very much disturbed at this. Absolutely irresponsible. Absolutely deplorable. This is too much.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : There are so many other States also. This is not a debate. This is Question Hour. You should not do like this. I am going to name you. You are exceeding the limits. You have exceeded every sense of decency now. Why don't you restrain yourself ? Very improper, I have always given you time Whatever the hon. Member has said shall not form part of the record because it was done without my permission.

The Minister.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :
I was making my point...

** Not recorded

MR. SPEAKER : You also refer to the other part of the question which Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has asked regarding Goenka, I am going to ask him to reply to that also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : She never asked about step-motherly treatment...

MR. SPEAKER : She accused him of step-motherly treatment.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : No. She never asked that question.

MR. SPEAKER : I know what I am doing.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
I want to put the record straight...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is a deplorable behaviour on the Member's part...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am sitting here. I know it, Please sit down.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : The next question is a very important question...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I know what I am doing. I think I was also in the House and not outside. It has passed over my head....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I still claim and I still say that this is a most deplorable behaviour.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :
If you don't mind, would you kindly tell what part of the question...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : She has asked about.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down, Please don't shout. I am asking. I had already asked on your behalf and I am

still going to ask him whether there has been.

(Interruptions.)

MR. SPEAKER : Now let me say something. What is this ? I do not know what you are going to prove by this type of behaviour. I deplore it.

Only one question—whether there is any step-motherly treatment as regards participation of Mr. Goenka or not, and whether he was treated on par with others.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : No step-motherly treatment will be given to any person and justice will be given to all and that I have stated here also. That is why I requested which part of the question I should answer first. I have answered that now.

Now, coming to the other part...

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: What did transpire in that meeting ? Let him say if he does not know.

MR. SPEAKER: How does he come into the picture ? He can answer only so far as the Central Government is concerned....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please look here. The functioning of the State Legislature Party and the functioning of the Central Government are completely two different things....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Geetaji, please sit down. What he has to deal with is the Central Government responsibility and not with that of the State Government. What the Congress Legislature Party does in West Bengal is not his business.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I wanted to know from you which part of the question I should answer first because she raised some other things also. I did not say that I do not know. I wanted to know from you...

MR. SPEAKER : Now you please answer. Already a lot of time has been

taken unnecessarily. Very deplorable. Very deplorable. Mr. Amal Datta, I do not appreciate what you have done today.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: So far as the request made to the Finance Minister regarding assistance to be given to the Haldia Petro-chemical Project, I will verify what has transpired between the Finance Minister... Otherwise tomorrow it will be said that I have misled. I will verify and I will take into consideration the memorandum submitted to the Finance Minister.

Regarding resources I want to make it very clear that it is not the intention of the Central Government to stall this project or do anything like that. What we have stated is that there is a resource constraint. If more funds are available in the course of the Seventh Five Year Plan—during the Sixth Plan we have made available more funds—it will be given to the State Government. That I have made very clear.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS
Without their contribution ?

MR. SPEAKER : So much of time has been taken on this one question unnecessarily and without any rhyme or reason and any sense of decency.

Estimate of Black Money

*62. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD† :
PROF. K. K. TEWARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by Government to check the operations of black marketeers and round them up;

(b) the estimate of black money believed to be in circulation in the country; and

(c) the amount of black money unearthed during the last financial year and so far during this financial year ?