

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 13, 1987/Sravana 22,
1909 (Saka)

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The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock
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[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: To-day Achariaji looks very cheerful.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: He remains "Sunn" (benumbed) for many days and then becomes 'prasunn' (cheerful).

MR. SPEAKER: You prefix 'pra' afterwards. Shri V. Tulsiram. To-day we are starting the proceedings with Tulsī Vandana.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: It is happening for the first time in the Parliament. Tulsī has always worshipped Ram. But for the first time he is worshipping Madhav.

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ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Railway Bonds

*244. SHRI V. TULSIRAM†:
SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways have recently issued bonds;

(b) if so, the number of bonds issued and the amount collected so far a results thereof;

(c) the details of projects for which this amount will be utilised;

(d) the details of projects in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan which are likely to be covered by this amount; and

(e) the time by which work is expected to start on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Bonds were floated recently by Indian Railway Finance Corporation.

(b) An amount of Rs. 559 crores 93 lakhs and 54 thousand has been raised representing 55,93,954 bonds of Rs. 1000/- each.

(c) to (e). The funds raised are a part of the Railways approved Plan outlay, and do not constitute an additionality. They will finance items of planned expenditure included in the Railways' 7th five Year Plan.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, last time also I had asked whether his being handsome and youthful would be of any use to the country. What to speak of the country, these are not of any use to the nation even.

MR. SPEAKER: Are they two, the country and the nation?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: He has replied in a roundabout way to my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please tell me in confidence for whom his youth will be of use.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: He does not know how to talk in wshispers.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just see, in reply to part (c) of my question, what a roundabout reply he has given.

MR. SPEAKER: The world is round.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: My colleague from Rajasthan and I have asked as to which projects are likely to be implemented in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan? But you have heard his roundabout reply.

[English]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Because the Speaker is from Rajasthan, he is asking about Rajasthan also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: The hon. Member from Rajasthan and I had asked two separate questions which have now been clubbed. The hon. Minister in his reply has said that this amount will be spent on the plans included in the Seventh Five Year Plan. But we did not ask it. How has he given a roundabout reply? Our question is a simple question as to which projects are going to be taken up there. In view of the fact that this amount was to be spent on a coach factory to be set up at Kazipet in Andhra Pradesh which has now been shifted to Punjab, whether Government propose to set up such a factory in our area and whether there are any other projects which are likely to be covered by this amount? I want a clear reply and not an answer in a roundabout way.

MR. SPEAKER: This question appears to be longer than even a railway line.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Excepting in Kapurthala, there is no likelihood of any new coach factory being set up any-

where in the near future. In regard to the hon. Member's question about Andhra Pradesh, I have already said that these bonds are a part of the railways approved plan outlay and I am unable to give its project-wise break-up.

[English]

All goes to make one complete plan.

[Translation]

So far as the question of doubling, laying and electrification of railway lines is concerned, if the hon. Member wants to have any special information about Andhra Pradesh, I can submit him the required information in writing or personally. Either he should meet me to collect the information or I should meet him to hand over the same to him.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Speaker had asked me to let him know in confidence something. You kindly convey that to him.

SHRI MADHAVARAO SCINDIA: That time is now over. To-day my daughter's betrothal ceremony is being held.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: At least congratulate the hon. Minister for this.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: For this, I do not want to congratulate him no, I will congratulate him when I go there and take dinner. If I congratulate him now, I will miss the dinner. Why did you not include the projects of Andhra Pradesh in the Seventh Five Year Plan? Our question is very clear and you have given a round about reply. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the questions which we put, some of them are dissolved, some of them do not get priority in the ballot and in reply to some of them, it is said that the information is being collected from the departments and in case of some other questions replies are given in negative. I have got 20 questions of this session which have been replied in negative. Is there any enmity with Andhra Pradesh and whether you neglect Andhra Pradesh for the reason that

there is the Government of Telugu Desam? (*Interruptions*). I would like to ask whether any amount has been earmarked for the projects of Andhra Pradesh out of the total collection of Rs. 5,59,39,54,000. There is a need to change the old railway lines because their condition has become such that the possibility of collision is increasing. They were laid long ago. I would like to know whether Government has any scheme or plan for execution there?

MR. SPEAKER: You have laid too much stress.

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA: The hon. Member has clearly asked in this question:

[*English*]

The details of projects in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan which are likely to be covered by this amount. This amount means Railway Bonds.

[*Translation*]

So far as the Seventh Five Year Plan is concerned, a lot of money is being spent in Andhra Pradesh. I have said time and again that the Railways should be viewed as an operational Ministry and not on a state-wise basis. It should be viewed as an All India Ministry. Even then there are provisions for electrification and doubling of existing lines, for laying new lines and for modernisation of the locosheds in Andhra Pradesh. The latter is one of the 4 to 5 locosheds which are being taken up. We are maintaining a very good relationship with Andhra Pradesh; there is no question of any enmity.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: That is why you have given such a reply.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Just now the hon. Minister has said that we should think in terms of the country as a whole. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say that we are thinking in those terms. But the hon. Minister should also think in those terms. In **stead of safeguarding the interest**

of Madhya Pradesh only, he should consider the neighbouring states also as his own. It is my submission. Now I would like to know as to what was the approved plan before the bonds were issued and the extent to which the approved plan has reached now after the realisation of this amount? Since this amount had been collected direct from the public, priority should have been accorded to laying new railway lines with this amount. The Planning Commission had approved a number of railway lines about which the Government had been saying time and again that due to shortage of funds the work could not be undertaken there. I would like to know whether the Government will spend the amount of these bonds on laying new railway lines?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I have already made clear that these bonds are a part of a complete plan of railways. This much I can say that the funds raised by these bonds are being spent on the complete plan. These are not additional funds. It is not an additionality. This is a part of the plan finalised by the Planning Commission. As for Rajasthan, I think I should also pay a little attention towards Madhya Pradesh also as I am paying towards Rajasthan. An amount of Rs. 24 crores has been earmarked for Kota-Neemuch line in Rajasthan. This amount is perhaps far more than any amount earmarked for any other railway line.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very big fair is being held on 24th instant in that part of Rajasthan which covers Jhunjhunu and Sikar also. The people coming to that fair not only visit Jhunjhunu but also Salasar, Khatu Shamji, Jind, Lohargarh. Lakhs of people from various parts of the country congregate on this occasion. Has the hon. Minister any plan to run special trains from Delhi to Jhunjhunu for the visitors during the period from 24th to 27th instant?

MR. SPEAKER: It is an additional plan. This does not come under it.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the family of the hon. Minister

is very much linked with Varanasi. He has constructed bathing places there by spending such a huge amount. There a plan is being executed for the last two years to convert Varanasi Bhatni line into a broad-gauge one. It is a Rs. 60 crore project. But so far only Rs. 6 crores have been sanctioned for it. This would not serve the purpose. Will the hon. Minister make efforts to earmark some amount for that project out of these funds?

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said that these funds are a part of a complete plan.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: It is an old project.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not come under that.

[English]

Modernisation of IISCO

245. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA†:
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan with a specified time frame has been formulated to implement the modernisation scheme for the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited and other steel plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. With a view to modernising the IISCO Plant, at the request of the Government of India, the Japanese International Co-operation Agency has prepared a feasibility report on the modernisation of Bumpur Works and Gua Iron Ore Mines of IISCO.

The proposed scheme envisages extensive changes in the Plant and contemplates an expansion in two stages over a period of six years to the ultimate capacity of production of 2.1 million tonnes of crude steel per annum.

Apart from IISCO, Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants are also proposed to be modernised. The modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant is expected to commence in 1987 and be completed by 1992-93. This will enable it to operate at its rated capacity of 1.6 million tonnes per annum of ingot steel. The modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant is expected to commence in 1988 and be completed by 1993. This will improve the capacity to 1.9 million tonnes per annum.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The Sword of Damocles is hanging over the heads of 2,000 IISCO workers. The workers of IISCO are in perpetual worry about their future. This L. S. integrated steel factory is being treated as a drying unit. Martin Burn & Company had made this IISCO deliberately a sick unit by extracting maximum profits out of this company, and after nationalisation, the Government of India has invested an amount of only Rs. 168 crores which is totally inadequate to make this L. S. integrated steel factory viable. Dastur & Company prepared a feasibility report in the 70s, and it was followed by a Russian company which also prepared a feasibility report. Now, the Japanese company, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency has prepared a feasibility report on the modernisation of Bumpur Works and Gua Iron Ore Mines of IISCO. May I know from the hon. Minister whether Government has examined the feasibility report prepared by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, whether it is a fact that thousands of workers have to retrenched with the modernisation of IISCO and whether any fund has been earmarked for the modernisation of IISCO during the Seventh Five-Year Plan?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: The hon. Member is aware that this is one of the oldest plants in our country. It was taken over by the