

definitely look into the specific information that the Hon'ble Member has given.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : The Minister is well aware that another government organisation, Oil and Natural Gas Commission, is employing many more rigs than Oil India Limited. What kind of rigs are these? Are they jack-ups, are they drill ships, are they semi-submersible? If so, how many of each category? Also, is it true that the number of rigs for given areas in India is the sparsest in the world?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Sir, we are using all types of rigs which the Hon'ble Member has mentioned. I will send the specific information to the Hon'ble Member. Our pattern is the same which is adopted all over the world.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : Is it sparsest in the world for given area? The number of rigs for given area in India is the least in the world?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : We require more rigs. Very right.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of the 27 thousand sq. kms. of area of Rajasthan, seismic survey has been conducted in the areas of Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Ganganagar and Nagaur. The then Hon. Minister Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma had also ordered drilling rigs costing Rs. 30 crores. But the rigs were neither purchased nor hired. Thus, the drilling work is going on very slowly and the progress is very slow. Therefore, what steps are being taken by the Hon. Minister in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not connected with that.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Sir, we have placed two such orders on B.H.E.L., one will be complied with by July 1987 and the other by May 1988. The survey work has been completed and now efforts will be made to send the rigs at the earliest.

[English]

Norms given by M/s. Rheinbraun
Consulting of West Germany to
Neyveli Lignite Corporation

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*723. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA
SINHA
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the norms given by M/s. Rheinbraun Consulting of West Germany to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited for selecting suppliers from amongst the tenderers of machines and equipment;

(b) whether the Neyveli Lignite Corporation follows the said norms strictly; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof and in how many cases the advice of M/s. Rheinbraun Consulting had been ignored by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) The norms for selecting suppliers for the specialised Mining Equipment (SME) for Neyveli second Mine Expansion project were decided by NLC in consultation with M/s Rheinbraun Consulting, West Germany. According to these norms, the bidders either by themselves or in valid collaboration with a collaborator must have designed, manufactured, erected, successfully tested and commissioned;

(i) Two Bucket Wheel Excavators of 700 litre and 1400 litre capacity each or of higher capacity;

(ii) Mobile Transfer Conveyors, of capacity not less than 4000 T/Hour of transporting hard/abrasive/sticky overburden similar to that encountered at Neyveli;

(iii) Spreaders of capacity of handling not less than 10,000 T/Hour of

hard/abrasive / sticky overburden similar to that encountered at Neyveli.

(b) The actions of NLC had the full concurrence of the Consultant, M/s Rheinbraun Consulting.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA : Sir, before I ask supplementaries, I would like to point out to you one thing that the way this question has come is completely different than the way I put it. I enquired from the Questions Branch and they said that the question form had to be changed at the instance of the Ministry.

Sir, I would like to seek your protection. Whether the Ministry puts the questions for the Question Hour in Parliament or the Members of Parliament put the questions ?

MR. SPEAKER : Everything is done under the rules. I have certain rules and procedures and there might be some confusion here and there; but not otherwise.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA : I asked about spreaders and the name of the spreaders has been completely removed from this question. As a result of this, it would be difficult for me to put supplementary questions. Anyhow, I request your help and protection for future so that our questions are not changed unnecessarily.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA : Sir, the Neyveli Lignite Corporation has undertaken a gigantic expansion programme costing about no less than Rs. 250 crores—more than that. The West German Government financial institution called KfW are giving long term credit for this expansion project. Now, I find that for the expansion project, the orders have been given to a particular company, called MAN in West Germany and their Indian Collaborator is WMI who do not have the experience of

manufacturing the spreaders of capacity 20,000 tonnes per hour.

Sir, in reply to a previous question on 17th March 1987, the Hon'ble Minister answered that the experts, who had been engaged for this expansion project, namely M/s Rheinbraun Consulting, have not recommended the name of MAN initially on the ground that they (MAN) do not have experience of manufacturing spreaders of this quality. They said that this particular company MAN does not have the experience of manufacturing spreaders and therefore it should be rejected. I would also like to point out through you to the Hon. Minister that this company MAN has supplied equipment to different other Indian authorities like the Kandla Port Trust and other Port Trust Authorities as well as to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation. All the machinery supplied by them have failed and broken down causing injuries to the workers. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to why even then this Neyveli Lignite Corporation is always insisting on giving orders to this company MAN and their Indian collaborator WMI for such a huge project, costing about Rs. 258 crores.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : In all these matters, we go by the advice of the experts, lest a charge be made that some subjective consideration has been brought in by either somebody in the management or the Government. So, the best course in such matters is to go by the advice of experts. Now in this case, as the Hon. Member says the KfW—the German financing institution has been giving the major financing and in consultation with them, we accepted the consultancy services of a well-known consultancy concern called M/s Rheinbraun, which is also of West Germany. On their advice, criteria were laid down and those criteria were listed in the statement given in the reply. According to those criteria, bidders bid for this equipment such as spreaders, bucket wheel excavators, etc. Three bidders came and all the three were from West Germany. They were M/s MAN, M/s Demao and M/s Krupp. According to the specifications of the consultants themselves, Krupp did not fall within the specifications of financing. In the first place, all the three were considered. The Hon. Member is right

when he says that MAN did not meet certain specifications. But when another avaluation was made in consultation with the consultants, it was found suitable because we constantly get improved information from the bidders to see whether they come upto the requirements. When it was found afterwards with the approval of the consultants that they met the requirements, the question of financial bid came up. Sir, this is a tussel going on between two West German companies and I do not think this House or any Hon. Member would like to take sides. We are not interested in any particular side in a particular company. We have no interest. We want only two criteria—(a) equipment must be good; and (b) cost must be the lowest. In the interest of the nation, these are the two tests which I think this House will agree to.

AN HON. MEMBER : No, no.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : What ? Don't you want the lowest cost and best machinery ? Then, what is the meaning of 'no' ? Why are you saying 'no' ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Oh, you want that it should not be from West Germany at all. If that is your contention, you can argue about it. I do not mind.

So Sir, within this framework, within those bids, we try to get the best in concurrence with the consultants as also the financier KFW.

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA : My second supplementary is this. I would like to quote Mr. Vasant Sathe's answer to my previous question.

"M/s Rheinbraun Consulting, West Germany, who were technical consultants for the project, did not initially recommend one of the tenderers, namely M/s MAN on the ground that they lacked adequate experience of manufacturing spreaders."

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, what happened in between as a result of which in the second analysis, all

of a sudden, this company was acceptable although this Rheinbraun Company did not initially recommend their names on the ground that they lacked adequate experience of manufacturing spreaders ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, in between, this company showed that they had such equipment working in China, in Australia, in Rumania and in Greece. When they proved this to the satisfaction of the Consultants, the Consultants accepted that. Now, China is being included. So, I hope our Communist friends will not oppose it.

SHRI K. S. RAO : Sir, the Hon. Minister in reply to the Hon. Member, Mr. Sinha, did not actually deny the failures of M/s MAN in other places.

May I know whether taking into account the failures of M/s MAN Company elsewhere in India, should we go on continuing to take the Consultants as suggested by the financiers which might lead to a disaster in future ? Will the Minister Consider to take the Consultants independently unconnected with the financiers' view ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, this aspect of an accident which had taken place to Bucket Wheel Excavators was examined again and it was found that it was on account of human failure and not technical failure. That is why we cannot hold the company which has manufactured responsible for it.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, time and again I have been asking this question. But I am not getting a proper answer. That is why I am asking this question today also. He has been telling a number of stories that he is above corruption and free from everything. He said that they are getting very good equipment from West Germany and all that.

(1) The same Consultancy—M/s Rheinbraun Consulting of West Germany—is a collaborator of WMI in Bombay area. They are the Indian collaborators and both supplying Bucket Wheel Excavators to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

(2) Now they are supplying Spreaders also.

(3) In another deal with the Kandla Shipyard, they supplied Cranes also.

Out of these three, with regard to Bucket Wheel Excavators, there was a collapse of the bucket and the roof fell down and so many people were injured.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has already answered that question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Don't waste my time.

DR. V. VENKATESH : I am coming straightaway to the question. Why I am asking all these thing is : ** if he is so free from all these things ..

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You ask the question. What do you mean by he is so free from all that ? You put the question. No insinuation.

(Interruptions)

DR. V. VENKATESH : Let this subject be probed by the House Committee.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Can't you talk something better than that ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Irrelevant; not allowed.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Venkatesh, can you normally put a question ? Don't try to make insinuations. I don't like this.

(Interruptions)

**Expunged as order by the Chair.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : I don't like your tenor. Not allowed.

*(Interruptions)***

DR. V. VENKATESH : Why do you ** him ?

MR. SPEAKER : Irrelevant. Why should I do that ? You are unnecessarily dragging certain things which have already been answered on the floor of the House. How many times do I have to get them answered ?

(Interruptions)

DR. V. VENKATESH : He has not given a satisfactory answer. I want an answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No questions; I cannot help it. Sit down. Not allowed. No. I am not satisfied with your behaviour. No. I am not going to allow you. I have said I will not allow you.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, the Hon. Minister may be knowing fully...
...*(Interruptions)*

DR. V. VENKATESH : I seek your protection, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : I need not protect you, but you must protect the rules of the House. *(Interruptions)* No; not like this.

DR. V. VNEKATESH : Kindly protect us.

MR. SPEAKER : You say certain things without any basis, and try to seek protection...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Tanti, you sit down. It is very bad on your part—always interrupting like this. I do not like it.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Allow a half-an hour discussion, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : No question. Mr. Minister, do you want to answer certain things ?

**Not Recorded.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : There is nothing to get excited *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is very bad. I do not like this. You are all Hon. Members of this House. Try to behave properly. If there is a question, there are rules under which you can say these things. Out of the blue if you try to raise certain things...I do not like it.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as we are concerned, I would once again like to say that we have no interest in any party whatsoever.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please call him to your office.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : You can come; anyone, any Hon. Member can come. I will put all the facts before you. Let us discuss them. I will try to satisfy you. You are most welcome. I tell you : you are most welcome. Come to my office. I will call the officers, if you want. I will place all the facts before you. Do not unnecessarily create the phobia of a probe and other things...
...*(Interruptions)*

DR. V. VENKATESH : He is having an allergy...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down. There is no question of an allergy here...*(Interruptions)* Everybody is an Hon. Member. Sit down. Otherwise I will have to name you. Everybody is an Hon. Member of this House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It is mania on his part, and phobia on their part.

MR. SPEAKER : Both are wrong. I think we must convert ourselves into a committee.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Sir, we do not demand a committee of the House every day, like them.

MR. SPEAKER : Now Mr. Kolandaivelu.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I think the House must be told about the meaning of the word phobia.

MR. SPEAKER : Phobia and mania, both are here...*(Interruptions)* It is all right now. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, we are already facing a power constraint. Recently, our Hon. Prime Minister came to Neyveli, and he inaugurated the second power plant in Neyveli. There is already a proposal in the Government of India. Whether you are purchasing from West Germany or East Germany, we are not bothered. We want a third thermal plant at Neyveli. When are you going to start this work ? We want to know this.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : One 210 MW unit was inaugurated recently.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : That is Mettur.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mettur has nothing to do with this. There are plans for expansion of the lignite thermal power stations in Neyveli. The total projections till 1990 would be about 5,000 MW in Neyveli alone. It has a tremendous potential.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : No; not allowed. Not allowed.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Now Mr. Vallal Peruman.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. I have already gone to the next question. Sit down. Take your seats. That is all. Don't do like this. I do not like this.

Loss of National Savings Certificates,
Indira Vikas Patras and Stamps
due to dacoities and terrorist
activities

*724 **DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

** Not recorded.