

कि जिस थाने के अन्तर्गत घटनाएं हों, उस थाने के इलाक़े के थानेदारों के या बड़े अफसरों के रिकार्ड में इस बात को अंकित किया जाना चाहिये कि उनके यहाँ घटनाएं पहले से कम हुई हैं या ज्यादा हुई हैं ?

श्री राजनाथ सोकर शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रश्न बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन इसको हंसी का पुट दे दिया गया है। कहा गया है कि आंकड़ों से सरकार संतुष्ट नहीं है। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली में जो इतनी घटनाएं हो रहीं हैं और प्रतिदिन एक न एक घटना लूट की, डकैती की होती है। इसलिए सही आंकड़े प्राप्त करने के लिए आप क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं। साथ ही 15 दिन पहले लाल किले के अन्दर पश्चिम जर्मनी की एक महिला को बूटा गया और उसके साथ बलात्कार किया गया। इस संबंध में गृह मंत्रालय ने अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की गई और उसकी वास्तविकता क्या है ?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Let him put a separate question, Sir.

Setting up of Sponge Iron Plant in Gujarat

*43. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation had submitted an application in March 1979 for setting up a Sponge Iron Plant with a capacity of 4 lakh tonnes per year using natural gas;

(b) whether it is a fact that the proposed plant is to be located at Hajira near Surat;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Maharashtra Government had also applied for a Sponge Iron Plant;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to give clearance to the Gujarat Project urgently; and

(e) if not, reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). Both the applications are under active consideration of the Government.

SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: With your kind permission I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to first two parts of my question. Gujarat Government through its agency GIIC had made this application in the year 1979. Since then a long time has gone by. I think I would be right in demanding an explicit and a more detailed explanation from the Hon. Minister in regard to this.

Secondly, when the answer is yes, that the Plant in Gujarat is selected at a place at Hajira, then why is the delay?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Sir, it is correct that the application was received in August 1979, but when the Licensing Committee considered it in October, 1979, it came to its notice that the administrative Ministry did not have adequate information regarding the availability of the required type of gas for the project. This application concerns production of steel based on gaseous reduction technology. Therefore, it was of importance that the project should be assured adequate supply of necessary type of gas. It was only in 1980 when the Department of Petroleum confirmed the availability of gas subject to certain conditions which have been detailed now. Then the Planning Commission had also set up a Committee of appraisal of gas resources. It was only in July 1981 that the Planning Commission sent its appraisal regarding this project. Now, the consideration on the applications has advanced quite further. The Licensing Committee has already considered the issue. A meeting has been called on the 11th of October—five days from now—in which Secretary,

(Steel), Secretary (Planning Commission) and Secretary (Industrial Development) will all meet and discuss all the pending matters. I hope that after this meeting we will be able to give expeditious consideration to those applications.

SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: I am sure the Hon. Minister must be aware that a considerable quantities of melting scrap are being imported, sponge iron being an alternative, immediate decision should be taken to set up this unit. And as Gujarat was the first to apply, I think Gujarat should be given this project. I would like to know categorically from the Minister, when they propose to set up this projects?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I would say with all humility that I have already mentioned that five days from now, this proposal will be considered by a Secretaries' meeting; and then I hope an expeditious decision would be taken.

SHRI B. V. DESAI: As already mentioned by my colleague, the scrap is being imported in a big way, and sponge iron plants are the life-line for all the mini steel plants in the country. May I know from the Minister whether it is only the Development Corporations of Maharashtra and Gujarat which have applied for licences, or other States also, including Karnataka? If so, what action has been taken by the hon. Minister?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: As far as my information goes, about 36 applications have been given by various parties and State undertakings. Karnataka is one of them. It is also under consideration.

श्री मोतीभाई आर० चौधरी: महाराष्ट्र की मांग किस तारीख में आई है और इस पर पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय ने क्या अभिप्राय: बताया है और स्थल-चयन के बारे में क्या स्थिति है, यह बताया जाये ?

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी: महाराष्ट्र की मांग भी कुछ समय पूर्व आई थी, उस

पर भी साथ ही साथ विचार हो रहा है। 11 अक्टूबर को जो मीटिंग हो रही है, उसमें महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात दोनों की अर्जियों पर विचार हो रहा है।

श्री मोतीभाई आर० चौधरी: महाराष्ट्र के प्रपोजल पर पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय का क्या अभिप्राय: है, इसमें गैस मिलता है क्या ? स्क्रीनिंग कमेटी ने क्या बताया है ?

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी : पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्ट्री ने कहा है कि हम थोड़ी गैस दे सकेंगे, उसी आधार पर यह विचार हो रहा है।

SHRI S. T. QUADRI: In his reply the hon. Minister has mentioned that the matter is under active consideration. I take it that the files have been located now, and the meeting will be conducted on 11th October. In his reply, he has mentioned that this plant is going to be on gaseous reduction process. Has Planning Commission given the clearance on the availability of sufficient gas from Bombay High to set up to two units—one in Gujarat and the other in Maharashtra? If so, can he mention categorically that from Bombay High, gas will be transported to Gujarat to set up this unit in Hajira?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: The Ministry of Petroleum has confirmed the availability of gas for production of sponge iron to the extent of 0.4 million to 0.5 million tonnes, subject to the condition that the location of the sponge iron plant would be near the pipeline to be laid for the transportation of gas to fertilizer units.

Secondly, only lean gas i.e. gas from which LPG and petro-chemical fractions have been extracted, would be supplied. The cost of connection from the main pipeline to the proposed sponge iron plant would have to be borne by the sponge iron plant. These are the main conditions. But there are other conditions also.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: If you permit me, Sir, may I know what is this lean gas like? It is a very important matter. Precious raw materials, natural raw material, non-renewable resources are going to be burnt as energy. I would like to know from the Minister, if you permit me: What is the nature of this lean gas? Is it methane, is it something else? I would like to know that.

SHRI NARAYAN DATTA TIWARI: The hon. Member has been dealing with the subject in the past. I am sure he knows about it, that lean gas which is relevant to this particular transaction means gas from which LPG and petrochemical fractions have been extracted.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: The hon. Minister is doing his home work better.

Controversies in BHEL

*44. **SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the controversies in BHEL (R&D Division) as reported in India Today dated 31 July, 1982;

(b) what are the reasons for moving away Energy Systems Group from the Vikasnagar Complex of BHEL;

(c) would it not result in vital analytical groups requiring laboratory back-up studies and laboratories needing analytical backing being separated from each other; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to see that the Research & Development Division of BHEL, which was set up in August, 1978 with high expectations of developing self-reliance is given all the requisite facilities and back-up support?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision to shift the Energy Systems Group from the Vikasnagar

Complex was taken essentially on the consideration that it is now functioning under the administrative control of the Executive Director, Tiruchy and not as part of the Corporate R&D. This was done in order to enlarge its scope of work and to entrust it with more important areas of research. Its present location, which is close to other R&D organisations, also provides opportunity for a better coordination with these units.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government will continue to provide the requisite support to BHEL to develop the qualitative and quantitative potential of its R&D Division and also to derive full benefit therefrom.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: May I know if the hon. Minister has gone through the report in the Journal referred to? Had he read in that the comments from the Chairman, BHEL that the scientists were like a piece of furniture; I am saying in quote "piece of furniture" whom he could shift about; if so, (a) does he agree with that proposition; (b) if not, did he pull up the Chairman for that type of statement with regard to the builders of the nation; (c) he says that this division has been done in order to enlarge the scope; may I know what was the scope of this particular organisation till now and what are the new areas assigned to it; (d) whether the hon. Minister will say if the achievements of R&D Section so far have been wasted by entering into those very areas with technical collaboration with other people reducing the BHEL to an import of 67 per cent in the year 1980-81 as against 59 per cent in 1974-75; is the enlarged scope going to be how to import more items from outside and then remain merely like the peacock with legs as ugly as possible; and finally..... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: He is going to make only one supplementary for these questions. (Interruptions).

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: So, his knowledge of alphabets does not extend beyond 'e'.