

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 8, 1983 | Agrahayana 17,  
1905 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : आइये अध्यक्ष  
महोदय ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो आपको बुलाना  
पड़ता है । मैं तो आया आया रहता हूँ ।

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल : अभी ऐसी नौबत  
नहीं आई है कि आपको बुलाने के लिए घंटी  
बजानी पड़े ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आएगी भी नहीं ।

Metro Railway Calcutta

\*225. SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be  
pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the plan and  
latest programme for the opening of the  
Metro Railway in Calcutta :

(b) when the construction work of  
all the sections of the Calcutta Metro  
Railway will be completed ; and

(c) the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAU-  
DHURI) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid  
on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Parts of the Metro Railway  
Project viz. from Tollygunj to Esplanade  
and Dum Dum to Belgachia are targetted  
to be commissioned by March, 1985.

(b) The work of Metro Railway in  
Calcutta is likely to be completed by end  
of 1987 subject to availability of adequate  
funds year by year.

(c) The following reasons have delay-  
ed the completion of the Project :

- (i) Problems connected with land  
acquisition like delays due to court  
injunctions etc.
- (ii) Law and order problems around  
the work sites.
- (iii) Re-location of unchartered utili-  
ties detected during execution.
- (iv) Traffic diversion problems, espe-  
cially at Chittaranjan Avenue, the  
busiest arterial route in North  
Calcutta.
- (v) Frequent load abedding in Cal-  
cutta.
- (vi) Failures of contractors.
- (vii) Paucity of funds during the  
Fourth and fifth Plan, the total

allotment upto March 1980 being only Rs. 68 crores.

**SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA :** Everybody is aware of the traffic congestion in Calcutta city and everybody is very much anxious about the early functioning of the Metro railway.

In this statement the hon. Minister has stated so many reasons for the delay in the completion of the project. I think these causes or reasons are minor reasons because in every construction work, there are some land acquisition problems or court cases. These are minor problems. I think the major problem is the paucity of funds. That is the major problem.

If we see, the initial expenditure amounted to Rs. 140 crores.

In reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, that is, on 16-11-83, the hon. Minister stated that 'now the estimated cost is Rs. 1200 to 1300 crores.' In his statement also the Minister has stated that 'upto March 1980, the fund allocation was only Rs. 68 crores.' After that, upto 1983-84, the amount allocated is Rs. 165.26 crores. Sir, if we go into details, we will see that the fund is the major problem.

In the Fiftyfifth Report of the P.A.C., Page No. 25 of 1981-82, it has been stated that the completion of work upto March 1981 was 27.5% in nine years, that is, at the rate of 3% a year. From 1980-81 upto 1983-84 the fund allocated is Rs. 165.26 crores and till date is 43.20%. That is, in 2/1-2 years, the progress of work is 16.15%; it is almost seven per cent per year. The constraint is the fund; this is the major problem. Uptill now, Government has allocated Rs. 233.26 crores upto 1983-84. If the total cost is Rs. 1200 crores and if Government allocates at an yearly average of Rs. 50 crores, it will take a further twenty years for the completion of this project—it will take a long time of twenty years. In this context, I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, that whether he can give a guaran-

tee that sufficient funds would be allocated and the project will be completed within the year 1985. Sir, I want sufficient funds and early completion of the project.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You will demand something much more than this.

**SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA :** He has stated that certain acquisition problems are major problems. This is not a fact.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You must realise that you must straightway ask your question. This is not the way to ask supplementaries.

**SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone in December, 1972. At that time, as the hon. Member has very correctly said, the cost was Rs. 140 crores. In 1974 it rose to Rs. 250 crores. At the present moment, in 1982-83, the cost will be from Rs. 700 to 800 crores. Before 1980, as the hon. Member has correctly said, a lot of fund was not available for Calcutta underground project. For all these years, that is, 1972-1973, 1974 and so on and so forth, the amount that was given was Rs. 68 crores. From 1980 we increased the fund. At the present moment, there is no dearth of funds. Whatever funds the Calcutta underground people are asking for we are providing them with the funds. So, the paucity of funds is not the problem. The problem is the complicated type of work that we have been doing.

**SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :** Sir, my question has not been replied. My second supplementary is that the hon. Minister has said at different times that some portion of the Metro railway can be opened in March, 1984, that is, Park Street to Rabindra Sadan, because this little stretch will serve no purpose. I want to know what is the actual fact. Secondly, I want to know whether it is possible to open the Hazra road to Esplanade portion of the Metro railways

by March 1984. The project is almost ready. If the hon. Minister takes keen interest, I think, this portion of the Metro railway can also be commissioned by March, 1984.

**SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I have said is this that the section between Park street and Rabindra Sadan and Maidan—these three stations—the distance of more than 1.6 kilometers will be ready by January, 1984. This is the schedule time that has been given to us and we stand by that schedule time. I think that there will be no problem on that. With regard to other section they have given a target date and if you are interested in the target date I can give you the target date. But there are other complications also. But at the present moment I want to inform the House that these three stations will be covered and probably by the end of January 1984 or at the beginning of February, 1984 there will be regular service in these three stations.

**SHRI SUNIL MAITRA :** Sir, between Park Street junction and Esplanade it is all the way Maidan. There is virtually no human habitation. This portion you are going to open and, I think, it will be repetition of Delhi's ring railway. In answer to a question of mine the hon. Minister has earlier stated that when Delhi ring railway project was conceived the projection was that daily 2.85 lakh people will be travelling by the ring railway. The actual fact is that between April-June only 209 persons were travelling for which they have spent Rs. 35 crores. So, I may say that between Park Street and Esplanade the number of commuters will be twenty, thirty or forty. Anyhow you are incurring the cost. The Delhi Statesman wrote that it may serve the purpose of Joy ride, but it cannot be of any use so far as the Calcutta people are concerned. Secondly, Sir.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You please put the question now.

**SHRI SUNIL MAITRA :** The hon. Minister stated that, money and fund will

not be a problem. Now, may I draw your attention to the fact that in the month of August this year there was a review made by the Railway Board. The Metro Railway authorities demanded Rs. 75 crores for the current year whereas you have sanctioned only Rs. 62.54 crores. For the next year the demand is for Rs. 100 crores. You have indicated that you cannot give more than Rs. 75 crores. In view of this, will the hon. Minister assure the House that paucity of funds will not stand in the way ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** That he has already said.

**SHRI SUNIL MAITRA :** I am disputing his statement. Already in the month of March a review was made. They demanded 75 crores ; he sanctioned 62 crores.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Paucity of funds will not stand in the way. To that, he has already committed himself on the floor of the House.

**SHRI SUNIL MAITRA :** Then I will say he is not telling the truth...

**MR. SPEAKER :** That is something else.

**SHRI SUNIL MAITRA :** If you force me then I will say, the Minister is misleading the House. Already paucity of fund has stood in the way. He is misleading the House.

**MR. SPEAKER :** We will cross the bridge when it comes.

**SHRI SUNIL MAITRA :** Will you assure us that you will surmount the difficulty of paucity of fund ? Will you assure the people of Calcutta city, which is being choked because of extreme lack of transport facilities, that no paucity of fund will be allowed to stand in the way ?

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** If he is not telling the truth the Member can even bring a Privilege motion.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** He pointed out that although the Minister says on the floor of the House that 'paucity of funds will not be a problem'. Yet, there has actually been a problem of paucity of funds.

**SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I repudiate the charge of the hon. Member. Only yesterday I spent the whole day with the General Manager of this Metro Railway. At no time in 1983 did they ask for more money than what we have given them. I can assure the House that I am not misleading the House. Paucity of funds will not stand in the way.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब बोलिए ! जब छोड़ गए न अपनी सीट !

**SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY :** Sir, Calcutta city is an overcrowded city ; it is also a very congested city. I want to know from the hon. Minister, in specific terms, to what extent, and by which time, he is going to complete it. This is my question. Let not the CPM and the Opposition people think that Calcutta belongs to them only ; it belongs to the entire nation. The city must be relieved of its huge congestion in traffic.

**MR. SPEAKER :** That question has been answered. He has already answered that question.

Next question.

**Deemed University Status for Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi**

\*226. **SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar Government have recommended to Union Government that Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi, be granted deemed University status ;

(b) whether opinion of Ranchi University has been taken in the matter ;

(c) whether in violation of the recommendation of Education Commission of India (1964), the autonomy of B.I.T., Mesra, conferred in 1972 has never been reviewed although Ranchi University Senate unanimously resolved in 1979 to review its autonomy ;

(d) whether Government and the U.G.C. received numerous complaints from various organisations of teachers, students etc, regarding gross abuse of autonomy by this Institute ;

(e) if so, action taken by Government thereon ; and

(f) whether Government propose to get the autonomy of this Institute, reviewed before considering to enhance the status thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) :** (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Central Government has no information.

(c) On the recommendation of the Education Commission, the University Grants Commission, has formulated a scheme for granting autonomy to selected colleges. The scheme visualises a periodic review and assessment by the concerned University of the performance of such colleges. Accordingly, the review of the performance of the BIT, has to be made in accordance with the provision of the relevant rules under which the institute was granted autonomous status by the Ranchi University/Govt. of Bihar. The Central Government have no information so far about any such review having been made.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. These representations have been brought to the