

MR. SPEAKER : Shri S.K. Dorai Sebastian. Absent, Shri Ramamurthy.

**Multi-Million Rupees Fraud Against  
ONGC**

\*44. SHRI S.A. DORAI SEBASTIAN :  
SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ONGC projects in Gujarat and Bombay have been cheated to the tune of several lakhs of rupees by the supply of substandard cement and adulterated caustic soda and cement worth Rs. 1 crore has been rendered useless; and

(b) If so, the action taken against the officials responsible for this multi-million rupee fraud ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : a) and (b) Three cases of supply of adulterated caustic soda to ONGC have been detected. The CBI is conducting an enquiry into one of them and the other two are under investigation by ONGC's vigilance department. Further action will be taken in the light of the findings of these enquiries. No. case of supply of sub-standard oil well cement has come to notice

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : The ONGC has done a very laudable thing in our country for exploring of oil wells and natural gas. But some bad things are going on like racketeering in the supply of cement etc. to the ONGC. In my question I have asked two parts. One is about the supply of caustic soda ; another is about cement. But in the reply the hon. Minister has mentioned about 'oil well cement'. I do not know under what category it will come. I would like to know, from the Minister, through you, when this adulterated cement racket was found in three cases, why the rest of the two cases were not entrusted to the CBI and only one case was entrusted to the CBI or the vigilance Department of

ONGC and what is the amount involved in the three rackets.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : In the case of M/s Chemsell Bombay sum of Rs. 11.16 lakhs are involved for the caustic soda. In respect of other two cases which are being investigated by the vigilance cell, the quantity of caustic soda involved is 575 metric tonnes and 300 metric tonnes respectively. The companies names are Unisell Bombay and M/s Dilan Industrial Products.

The position so far as M/s Chemsell Bombay is concerned, is that on the basis of source information the matter has been entrusted to the CBI and the CBI have already issued the FIR under section 5(2) read with section 5( ) of the Prevention of Corruption Act against two ONGC employees namely Shri A.K. Jain, Chemist and Shri B.K. Jain, Stores and Purchase Officer apart from the company itself. So, the matter is under investigation.

In the case of M/s Unisell Bombay a quantity of 575 metric tonnes was ordered and this was supplied. Out of this 140 metric tonnes of soda is lying with the ONGC and the rest has been used. But the case came to light at a later stage. Therefore, the investigation has been ordered by the vigilance cell. Once the vigilance cell completes the investigation in both the cases the matter will be considered as to whether for further investigation it should not be referred to the CBI.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : I would like to know as to how long these two enquiries which have been entrusted to the vigilance cell, are pending and when are these two enquiries likely to be completed ? Apart from these two officials, has any high official in the rank of General Manager been charged in this regard ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : The vigilance cell is still investigating the matter. These matters have been en-

trusted to them practically at the end of 1983 because the orders were placed and supplies were effected sometimes in the later part of 1983. Therefore, once the preliminary enquiries of the Vigilance Cell are over, however high the officials may be, I assure the House that nobody would be spared. And if there is a proper case, certainly we will take criminal section against them.

**SARI K. OBUL REDDY :** Is the Minister aware that along with cement and caustic soda mudd chemicals like barytes and bentonite are also supplied to ONGC ? Due to sub-standard supplies of the materials blow-ups in off shore Bombay and elsewhere have occurred causing lot of loss and damage to the rigs and surrounding places. What action has Government taken against the officials responsible for it ? And what action does the Government propose to take to stop such incidents ?

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR :** Barytes is a different issue altogether. I am sure the hon. Member has special knowledge about it. But the point that I am trying to suggest is that in respect of the cases of adulteration of caustic soda which have been detected, in two cases the Vigilance enquiry is under headway and that the matter has not come to a crucial stage so far so that some action could be taken. In the other case because at the outset itself we came to know that it was a clear case of adulteration and the investigation revealed the involvement of two officers, therefore immediately the matter was entrusted to CBI. CBI has already issued the FIR and the matter is under investigation by them. Charge-sheet has not been filed in the court. But, in respect of the other two cases which I have mentioned, it is the departmental authorities who are the vigilance officer. They are making the preliminary enquiry and once something comes to light, I assure the House that nobody, howsoever high he may be, will be spared.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the hon. Minister for

having taken certain actions for the improvement of ONGC but it will not be sufficient to introspect the organisational set up run by certain bureaucrats of the higher-ups. They are in connivance with the supply and service, it may be soda, it may be soda ash it may be cement or it may be machinery. They are always hand and glove and are bringing a very bad name to the organisation. Why these higher-up officers are being dealt with so softly ? A number of enquiries have been made on various occasions in various incidents like this but frauds have been taking place. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will have a second look on this issue and see that proper steps are taken against the higher-up officials because there is a large-scale discontentment ? Some of the officers are having a strong hold on the ONGC and are preventing certain officers who are honest from functioning properly and are denigrating them. This is the reason why ONGC is getting a bad name. Therefore, I am appealing to you, I am requesting you to kindly have a second probe into all these things so that ONGC may improve further in a proper way and in a proper manner.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Appeal accepted ?

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR :** A very general issue has been raised.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :** Not General Sir.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has appealed to you to have a second look so, you have a second look.

**SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR :** My presumption is he knows the answer, therefore, I will not say anything on this.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Now, Mr. Ravindra Varma

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :** I have not been given any answer. In the larger interest of the country Minister may...

(Interruption)

**SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY :** Sir, everyday there is a question of mine but I am neither setting that question nor any supplementary.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Now, Mr. Ravindra Varma.

जन संचार माध्यमों पर सरकारी  
नियंत्रण

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\*45. श्री रवीन्द्र वर्मा :

प्रो० अजित कुमार मेहता :

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि टी० वी० प्रोग्राम प्रोड्यूसर्स गिल्ड आफ इंडिया ने जन संचार माध्यमों पर सरकारी नियंत्रण की आलाचना की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संदर्भ में तथ्य क्या है ; और

(ग) उन पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) No official communication from T. V. Programme Producers Guild has been received. However, as per newspaper reports the Guild has only stressed the need for improving T. V. programme and engaging private producers in a larger measure.

(c) Improvement of programmes on Doordarshan is a continuous process and Government welcomes suggestions from all quarters in this regard. To improve programmes competition between Doordarshan Kendras by instituting awards

has been introduced. Government has set up a Working Group on Software Planning. Sponsored programmes have been started, Independent producers are also given assignments for production of programmes.

**SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA :** The hon. Minister has slurred over one of the crucial suggestions made by the Guild. They have questioned the constitutional validity of the monopoly of the Government in the field of broadcasting and television and pointed out to the danger that may arise when the projected idea of expanding television to 70 per cent of the village becomes a reality.

They have cautioned against the danger of the television becoming a mouth-piece of the Government, unless there is proper integration in the production and presentation of programmes. What steps are the Government planning to take to promote the participation of indigenous producers ? What steps the Government propose to take to co-ordinate the efforts of the private producers and independent producers so that the Government are able to make use of the facility of the Door Darshan to see that the twin objectives of entertainment and education are fulfilled by the TV network ?

**SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT :** I would submit that the policy in regard to production and programme is not to have a monopoly by the Door Darshan itself or by the Government departments alone. It is our policy to get for our programmes outside talent wherever it is available. For that purpose, we have established contracts with the various theatre groups and we have entrusted TV documentary production to a number of private producers. As a matter of fact, some of the Guild Members themselves are already taking some programmes from the Door Darshan. So, our policy for production of programmes for the TV is not confined to getting programmes from the governmental agencies alone; it is to get the top talent from everywhere possible. For that very purpose, specific and concrete steps have been taken. In fact, I had