

**Payment of Hire charges of two boats to an American firm by O. & N.G.C.**

\*392. SHRI PARIPOORNANAND PAINULI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the O. & N. G. C. is paying for the past two months 2400 dollars per day as hire charges to an American firm for obtaining two supply boats which remain in disuse;

(b) whether the 7500 dollars have already been paid as transport charges to reach the two supply boats from U.S.A. to Bombay and 35,000 dollars to be paid later ; and

(c) the reasons why the supply boats could not be had indigenously ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH) : (a) Yes ; Sir. The ONGC is paying, since December 17, 1972, dollars 2400 per day (less a rebate of dollars 20 per day) as hire charges to an American firm for two supply boats. Of this 20% is payable in rupees. One of the two boats has been used for some time for clearing material from the fixed offshore platform in the Aliabet structure and the other has not been used.

(b) A total sum of \$1.83 lakhs approximately as per contract has been paid for bringing the two boats from U.S.A. to Bombay.

(c) An order was placed by the Commission with the Hindustan Shipyard Limited for two supply boats which are expected to be delivered some time by the end of 1974/early in 1975. Till that time the Commission had no option but to charter hire these boats.

SHRI PARIPOORNANAND PAINULI : May I know whether tenders were invited from Hindustan Shipyard also, and if so, is it not a fact that there was no timely response from the ONGC to the offer made by Hindustan Shipyard ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH : Orders had been placed for two ships on Hindustan Shipyard, but they will supply the ships only in 1974 or 1975. In the meanwhile, for dealing with the Japanese platforms we need supply boats. So, for this period we have to hire the supply boats for transport of materials as well as crew. Without these, we could not function in the offshore and work with the Japanese platforms.

SHRI PARIPOORNANAND PAINULI : My question has not been answered. I wanted to know whether it is a fact that there was no timely response to the offer of Hindustan Shipyard by the O&NGC at that time ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH : I could not tell you that. But certainly Hindustan Shipyard has agreed to build these two ships and they are being fabricated.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member says that Hindustan Shipyard offered to make these ships but there was no response from the O&NGC.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH : The Hindustan Shipyard is building these two ships.

SHRI PARIPOORNANAND PAINULI : It is true that the Hindustan Shipyard is building these two ships. But the order was placed much later. Is it a fact that the order on Hindustan Shipyard was placed not at the time when the quotation was made but much later ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH : I require notice for that question.

SHRI PARIPOORNANAND PAINULI : The hon. Minister stated that one of the boats has been used for some time past for clearing material and the hire charges come to \$960 per day. What were the terms offered by O&NGC for hiring American ships and why could those ships not be used ? Would the hon. Minister make a probe into the matter and fix responsibility on the officers responsible for the shady deal ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH : I do not agree with the hon. Member that it is a shady deal. The Japanese platform was ordered and it was to come this month. But since its performance was not good, we said we would not accept it. So, every day the Japanese firm Mitsubishi is to pay us \$5,500 as compensation. Therefore, the compensation we are getting is much higher than the hire charges to the ships.

MR. SPEAKER: I think that should not have been mentioned there.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH : The problem is that there is delay in getting the platform from Japan. Therefore, we have not been able to utilize them for the purpose for which they have been chartered. But, as I pointed out, although we are paying them substantial rent every day, we are also to get more than that by way of compensation from the Japanese firm.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Since it was necessary to go over to a foreign source of hiring these boats, may I know whether global tenders were called for in this respect and the charges quoted by this particular American firm were the lowest or no global tenders were called for ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH : I require notice for that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : This question surely arises out of the main question. We are spending a big amount as rental for these boats. Surely, he must know whether global tenders were issued or not. What kind of functioning is this ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH : Notice is required for the simple reasons the information is not with me.

MR. SPEAKER : He can send it later on.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : The Minister said that the hire charges will be more than the cost price of these two boats.

MR. SPEAKER: That happens sometimes.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH : What I said was that the hire charges of these boats would be less than the compensation that we would be getting from the Japanese firms. As soon as we get the Japanese platform, we would be able to utilize these boats.

#### Construction of over-bridge at Miraj, South Central Railway

\*400. SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINGDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the work of constructing the Railway over-bridge at Miraj on Miraj-Kolhapur line, South Central Railway is expected to be completed;

(b) whether there is no effective co-ordination between the agencies engaged in carrying out the works on the over-bridge and the approach roads; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that the completion of both the works synchronises with each other ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) The work is likely to be completed by 30-6-74.

(b) and (c). There is effective co-ordination between the Railways and the State Government through periodical co-ordination meetings and review of the progress of the work at site.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINGDE : It is stated that the work is likely to be completed by the end of June, 1974. May I know from the hon. Minister which is the date mentioned in the agreement entered into with the contractor by which the construction work of the over-bridge was to be actually completed and whether the contractor has asked for the extension of the stipulated period ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I have no knowledge about the extension of time. But this much I say that the work was sanctioned on the 23rd December and the work