

SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO: I want to know what steps the Government is taking particularly with regard to the acute shortage of picture tubes. I gather from the news reports that the West Bengal Government is trying to put up a T.V. tube factory with the collaboration of Bharat Electronics. Also what steps the Government of India is taking to manufacture the glass shells for the picture tubes. I understand even Bharat Electronics import these glass shells.

SHRI VIDYA CHANAN SHUKLA: I have already answered these points. Because of the shortage of picture tubes produced in the country we have allowed some import of picture tubes. This will be sufficient to meet the present demand. As regards glass shells required for the manufacture of picture tubes, this matter is under our active consideration and we have taken steps to encourage the production of glass shells and we hope to take a decision in this regard very soon. As soon as this is done self-sufficiency in this field would have been achieved.

Ordinance on Nationalisation of Foreign Owned Plantations in Kerala

*124. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision about the granting of permission to promulgate the ordinance to nationalise the foreign owned plantations in Kerala, which was proposed by the Kerala Government and pending the decision of the Centre for many years; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to take a decision on this during the present term of the present Kerala Government and Assembly by October this year?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) A high-powered group had been set up to examine the implications of the proposal of the State Government. The group has submitted its report to the Government on 3rd February, 1975. A decision in the matter will be taken in the light of the recommendations of the group as early as possible.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: The Minister has given a very disappointing answer. This question has been raised for more than 10 times during the past four years in this House. We also had a half-an-hour discussion on this. Every time the Government repeated a parrot like monotony the same answer. Let us know now whether it is a fact that the Government at all intends to give permission to the Kerala Government for nationalisation of the plantations. More than four years have been taken for the study team to make up their mind. After six months the term of the Kerala Government is coming to an end. Whether the Government would take a decision before that or whether the Government will carry on with this indecision.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: It is true that it has taken some time but it will also have to be considered that this is an important question not only affecting Kerala but also plantations in other areas of the country. This being an important matter about ten to twelve Ministries are involved in this. It is also not free from doubt whether there is legal competence as well. Therefore, Sir, considering all this a high-power group has been set-up. They have submitted the recommendations only a few days ago. They will be examined by the Ministry of Finance and later in consultation with other Ministries concerned Government will take a decision in due course.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: What is this answer that he is giving?

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever it is, it is a clear answer. You can ask your second supplementary.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN I seek your protection. The same answer he had repeated. I was not eager to know how many Ministries are involved and what is the technique of the Government to take a decision

MR. SPEAKER: When he said 'Not yet', you asked for the reasons. When he gave the reasons, you are not interested in the reasons. You better ask supplementary question.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN Since the Prime Minister is here and since it is useless to ask a question on this to the Home Minister, I would like to know from the Prime Minister, if possible, whether at all Government is interested in taking a decision on this important matter. Sir, this is an important matter. That is why, we are eager to get a decision of the Government and if they say that they will take a decision as soon as possible, we will be thankful.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is addressed to the Home Minister. How can you divert it to the Prime Minister?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: Sir, it is not a question of getting interested or disinterested. It is a question of complete examination of the matter in its various implications.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, is this an answer? Why don't you pull him up?

MR. SPEAKER: Don't argue that I should also express an opinion.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: We would like to get an answer.

Otherwise, what is the fun of putting a question?

MR. SPEAKER: What was he telling you? If it was not an answer, what was that? He cannot give an answer to your liking.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, during the last four years, on ten occasions, the same answer has been repeated. Let us hear at least whether the Government....

SHRI VASANT SATHE: For the same question, there will be the same answer.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister had evaded an answer in reply to the question put by Mr. Chandrappan whether the Government has any policy regarding nationalisation of these plantations, the foreign owned plantations. My question is, whether the Government is aware that many of the plantations had become sick and in that respect, whether the Government has any policy to take over these sick plantations?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Only when they are sick, they will be taken over.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: My question is, whether the Government has any policy regarding taking over because so many times 'has been said and I do not know what is the actual policy of the Government? In West Bengal, there are several plantations and several times Government has said that they will be taken over. But, they are there as they are. No step has been taken. My question is, what positive steps Government is going to take in regard to these sick plantations owned by both the foreign and Indian monopolists?

MR. SPEAKER: May I invite your attention? The question was very categorical about the permission for

promulgation of an ordinance to take over the foreign owned plantations in Kerala. If it is about the sick plantations, that is a different matter. It is entirely a different question. I do not think the Home Minister is concerned with the sick plantations.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA. Sir, if you see the answer given by the Home Minister in reply to the supplementary put by Mr. Chandrapan, you will find that it concerns so many Ministries. Not only that. It concerns the whole of India, not Kerala alone. So, I have put this question.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This is a sick question.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is completely off the point.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The only new thing in the Minister's latest reply is that a high-power working group which had been appointed to go into this question has submitted its report. This question of takeover of foreign-owned tea plantations is, after all, a policy question as well as a question of the modalities of takeover, if it is agreed to. Obviously this working group was set up to study the modalities of takeover because a working group is not going to go into questions of high policy, for that, they would be better advised to set up a Committee of the Cabinet. Since they did not do that, since they set up a working group, would we be right inferring that as far as the policy decision on takeover is concerned, Government have no objection and this working group was set up to go into the details of the modalities of it and that is what they have reported to Government on?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY. As you have rightly said, Sir, the question of takeover does not concern my Ministry; it is a matter for the Ministry of Commerce. So far as the working group was concerned, it was asked to go into the question

whether there is justification on the merits of this matter, for the foreign-owned tea estates in Kerala to be taken over. On that they have submitted a report which is under examination by the Ministry of Finance.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: This is evading my question. Please do not keep the House in the dark like this. The working group, which we assume consisted of representatives of certain Ministries, could not possibly be entrusted with the job of taking a policy decision on such a matter. Therefore, I want to know this in two distinct phases. One is the question of policy, whether the Government has made up its mind on that. The separate question is whether the modalities of it have been entrusted to this working group and that is what they reported on.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF SPACE, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): Even the question of policy can only be decided when you have all the facts.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: All these years you had no facts? The facts were given by the Kerala Government years ago.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN: Facts were given by an Expert Committee of the Kerala Government in its report.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: They may have submitted a report about the position in Kerala. But the decision has to be taken keeping in view the situation all over India, not only in Kerala. What will be the repercussions of any decision, one way or another, what will be the repercussions on the State, what will be the repercussions, say, on our exports? Various such matters have to be considered. The situation has been a changing one, specially in the

last year or so. Hon. members are aware, for instance, that many tea planters are new starting plantations in other countries, which will create difficulties for our tea plantations, regardless of whether they are nationalised or not. All these questions have to be gone into in detail.

Major Projects in Central Sector approved for Orissa in Fifth Plan

*126. SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of major projects, with their locations, in the Central Sector approved by the Central Gov-

ernment in favour of Orissa State during the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The names of major projects in Orissa in the Central Sector included in the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan with their locations and amount provided for them in the Plan are given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Project	Location	Outlay provided in Draft Fifth Plan
1	Rourkela Steel Plant—Debottlenecking and Diversification Projects	Rourkela	105.00
2	Ferro Vanadium Project		10.00
3	Sargipalli lead mine	Sargipalli	4.00
4	Sukunda Nickel Project	Sukunda	39.50
5	Talcher Fertiliser Project	Talcher	47.44
6	Development of Paradeep Port	Paradeep	16.25
7	Potteru Irrigation Projects	Potteru	13.28

In addition to the projects listed above a part of the investment made out of the consolidated provision for various undertakings such as the Coal Mines Authority, National Mineral Development Corporation and the provision for new fertiliser projects will be in Orissa.

SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI: Has the State Government made any proposal to the Central Government for setting up a big smelter plant at Sargipalli in Orissa during the Fifth Plan on a

priority basis. If so, what action has been taken by the Central Government?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: The proposals made by the State Government have all been taken into consideration. In the statement laid on the Table, we have mentioned the Sukunda Nickel Project for which a provision of Rs. 39.50 crores has been made. This is being processed and as soon as the matter is finalised, we shall go ahead with the setting up of this project.