

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 6, 1978/Agrahayana 15, 1900 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Nhava-Sheva Satellite Port

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\*243. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL:

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to set up a port at Nhava-Sheva near Bombay has been pending clearance of central authorities and the Planning Commission for a long time;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the present stage;

(c) whether the State Government have recently represented to the Central authorities for an early clearance of the proposal; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government to the representation made by the State Government and how soon a final decision in this regard could be expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.  
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A High level Working Group has been constituted by the Planning Commission in June 1978 to study the establishment of a satellite port at Nhava-Sheva from all angles. The Report of this Working Group is awaited. A provision of Rs. 25 crores has been proposed in the Sixth Five Year Plan for this project.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Maharashtra Government have been apprised of the present position.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the number of ships waiting outside the Bombay harbour for loading and unloading the cargo and what is the reason for delay in giving berth to those ships? I understand that the number of ship-days which are waiting outside the harbour to get berth is increasing day by day. What is the number of ship-days lost during the year 1977-78 in Bombay Port on account of congestion in the harbour? What were the corresponding figures a year ago as also two years ago?

SHRI CHAND RAM: Sir, the number of ships waiting at the Bombay Port is really increasing but the increase is not due to congestion at the Port. It is because of various other factors like less productivity of labour and other factors. In 1974-75, the number of vessels that were held up at Port were 1916 and this number increased to 2426 in 1975-76. In 1976-77 the number of vessels increased to 3039. In 1977-78 the vessels calling on the port was 3162. The number of ship man days lost has gone up from 5223 in 1974-75 to 9347 in 1977-78.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL: What will be the savings in ocean

freight for import and export, if it is possible to load and unload in vessels of 60,000 D. W. 2 Cargo Packs in containers?

MR. SPEAKER: That does not arise.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL: What will be the size of shipment of sugar exported abroad from Bombay?

MR. SPEAKER: That also does not arise.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL: What will be the saving of money through reduction in cost of freight as compared to Bombay Dock and Nhava Sheva Dock?

SHRI CHAND RAM: All these things are being considered by the high level committee of the Planning Commission. We cannot say what is the actual position. Government will consider to set up the port as soon as the report is obtained by the Government.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: In view of the fact that the congestion that took place in July 1978 in Bombay which has been described as a congestion of the century, a Study Group has been constituted and we are told that because of congestion in Bombay there was a loss of more than Rs. 12 crores to the exchequer and the shipping industry in one year. Nhava Sheva is the only remedy to relieve congestion in Bombay port. The answer given is that a provision of Rs. 25 crores has been proposed in the Sixth Five Year Plan for the project. The project as it was originally considered in 1968 was to cost Rs. 51 crores. In 1975 the revised estimate went to more than Rs. 98 crores. The current estimate is Rs. 109 crores. The cost is likely to accelerate further if delay takes place in sanctioning this project. There are certain sections which are interested in

scuttling this project. There are suspicions expressed that Hajira near Surat is being considered for a new port and this project is being abandoned. Will the Government see that enough provision is made for this project and the scheme is sanctioned early? Study Group may also be asked to submit the report as soon as possible.

SHRI CHAND RAM: This is a case for Nhava Sheva project and that is why, we have set up a high level committee. Its report is expected very soon. The other things which he has brought in the question are irrelevant.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: They are not irrelevant.

MR. SPEAKER: They are being considered by the Committee.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: Is he expediting the Committee's report?

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot expedite the Committee's report.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is the usual size of the ship which carries general cargo to ports in West Germany, Japan and USA? What is the annual loss that the exchequer suffers for want of facility for large-sized ships in Bombay to be taken in and both import and export suffering thereby?

SHRI CHAND RAM: All these things are being considered by the high level committee.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: He does not the size of the ship.

SHRI CHAND RAM: That is why, setting up of an alternate port at Nhava Sheva is being considered because Bombay Port is not taking deep draught ships.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** He is the Shipping Minister. Should the Planning Commission know the size of the ship also?

**MR. SPEAKER:** What is the normal size of the ship and what is the annual loss that is suffered?

**SHRI CHAND RAM:** They have bigger size ships of 2.5 lakh to 3 lakh. Even at Nhava Sheva dredging will have to be done. There are only two or three ports, in the country namely, Vizag, Haldia, where we have good draught and where deep draught vessels are accepted.

**SHRI R. K. MHALGI:** The Minister has said that a high level committee has been appointed in the month of June, 1978. It has also been said that the report is likely to be submitted soon. Has the Government fixed any time-limit or given any particular time to the Committee to submit the report to the Government or the Planning Commission?

**SHRI CHAND RAM:** I have requested the Planning Commission to expedite the report at an early date. I have myself been to Nhava Sheva to see whether we can do anything. Our Secretary, Transport, is a member of that committee. I have asked the Secretary to have this report expedited.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Has any date been fixed?

**SHRI CHAND RAM:** This is a Committee appointed by the Planning Commission. I can only request the Planning Commission to expedite the report. It is so far the Planning Commission to submit the report.

#### **Reconstitution of Second Press Commission**

\*245. **SHRI A. ASOKARAJ:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Federation of Working Journalists has urged

for the reconstitution of the Second Press Commission; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI):** (a) Press reports to this effect have come to the notice of Government.

(b) Government do not propose to reconstitute the Press Commission.

**SHRI A. ASOKARAJ:** The answer is not so satisfactory. I would like to know whether any press note was given of the announcement made by the hon. Minister in the Rajya Sabha on May 18, 1978 regarding this press Commission?

**SHRI L. K. ADVANI:** A formal statement was made by me in the Rajya Sabha on 18th May. Subsequent to that, the Press Commission has been constituted and it has been going round and it will be issuing questionnaire to various bodies...and all the necessary steps that it needs to take to complete this work would be taken.

**SHRI A. ASOKARAJ:** Sir, during 1952-53 the circulation was estimated to be 25 lakhs by this time. But now the circulation of newspapers has come to some 90 lakhs. Considering the larger increase in the circulation, I would like to know whether the Government is considering any move to set up any body for the welfare of these journalists.

**SHRI L. K. ADVANI:** In fact, in the statement itself that I made in the Rajya Sabha on 18th May, this factor that the hon. Member referred to was taken note of when we said that since 1954 when the first Press commission gave its report, the Indian press has taken new strides and has acquired an added significance with the continuously expanding readership. So this factor has been taken cogni-