

Projects Behind Schedule

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147 SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :*SHRI B.V. DESAI :**

Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of major projects in the power, coal, steel and fertiliser sectors which are behind schedule due to disputes relating to land and environment clearance and delayed equipment ;

(b) the investment involved in such projects ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to avoid further delay in the clearance of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) (a) and (b) 21 Central Power Projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores each with anticipated investment of Rs. 8,865 crores have been delayed due to various reasons such as delay in acquisition of land, supply or critical equipment and materials, approval procedure of foreign aid agencies, law and order disturbances, forest clearance, difficult geological conditions etc.

11 Central Coal Projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores each with anticipated investment of Rs. 3213 crores have been delayed due to various reasons such as delay in land acquisition, equipment supply, difficult geo-mining conditions, problems of power supply etc.

4 Central Steel Projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores each with anticipated investment of Rs. 11,870 crores have been delayed due to delay in equipment supply, change in scope, slow construction and inadequate funding.

2 Central Fertiliser Projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores each with anticipated investment of Rs. 716 crores have been delayed due to problems of equipment supply, power, slow equipment erection and breakdown during commissioning.

(c) By effective monitoring of projects

through Monthly Flash Reports the Ministry of Programme Implementation would help in initiating corrective action by concerned authorities to minimise delays.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : MR. Speaker Sir, in reply to questions (a) and (b) the Hon. Minister has given the number of projects which are delayed. That number comes to about 38. The break-up of this is : 21 power projects, 11 coal projects, 4 steel projects and 2 fertiliser projects. Of course according to me this is an under-statement because according to the Press reports nearly 84 projects costing about Rs. 55,000 crores are behind the schedule. So, I would like to know what is the maximum delay caused in implementation of these projects and which are those projects which are under maximum delay ?

MR. SPEAKER : That will be a long list.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : There is a long list.

MR. SPEAKER : You put it on the Table of the House.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : At least you can give the number of projects which are delayed for maximum period.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : They are 21 in number so far as power projects are concerned. The maximum delay means 2, 3 and 4 years like that. There will probably be some more delay so far as power projects are concerned. So far as coal is concerned the number is 16-11 delayed and 5 not completed. (*Interruptions*) As regards steel all the 4 projects are delayed. As regards fertiliser 2 out of 7 projects are delayed.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, he is saying wrong things.

MR. SPEAKER : No. No. You cannot say like this.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Sir, in reply to the steps taken by the Government the

hon. Minister has said effective monitoring of projects through monthly flash reports and initiating corrective action. These are the two steps which the hon. Minister has said that the Government proposes to take. I would like to know since land acquisition is a major problem in these delays would the Government consider amending the Land Acquisition Act suitably so that delay can be minimised? Similarly, there is the problem of forest clearance and delivery of equipment. Will the Government give general guidelines for the problem of forest clearance and supplying the required equipment instead of taking monthly flash reports only?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a good suggestion for consideration.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one cause is not responsible for the delay. There are variety of causes. If the hon. Member is interested to know as to what are the projects that are held up due to land acquisition I can tell him.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, I rise on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order in Question Hour. There you are wrong. You are caught on the wrong foot.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : I wanted to inform the House that there are variety of reasons. Sometimes there is equipment delay. Sometimes there is funding problem. Now, miscellaneous problems are there. It is not the land acquisition problem alone. I do not think even a single project is there that you can point out for land acquisition the project is held up except Koel Karo in Bihar.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, he has said that there is a delay of 3 to 4 years. But particularly in Karnataka, what about the Vijayanagar Steel Plant and what about the Mangalore Refineries? Sir, he is misleading the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. He said that due to gestation period there are

certain delays and the matter is being looked into.

DR. V. VENKATESH : He has said about the delay of three to four years. What about the projects in Karnataka. He is misleading the House.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question of misleading. Time factor is crucial.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, I want to know whether any decision has been taken in regard to Vijayanagar Steel Plant.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a specific field. It varies from project to project.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, we want to know a firm answer from the hon. Minister. *(Interruptions)* I am asking about Karnataka. About 15 years ago, foundation stone was laid for this project.

(Interruptions)

Conversion of Wasteland into Profitable Forestry

*148. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Limited has undertaken a scheme to convert wasteland in the country into profitable forestry as a pilot project;

(b) if so, the names of States where such projects will be undertaken.

(c) the estimated wasteland likely to be utilised; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose?

*Not recorded.