

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL :** Sir, it is incorrect to say that the technology which is used in India is outmoded. If we compare, the technology which we are using in India it is as good as that in most advanced countries in the world. In certain respects, the technology used by us is better than the technology used in other countries. After the accidents have taken place, the most advanced countries also have come and discussed this matter whether the nuclear technology should be used for power production. After some accidents also which have taken place, they have reaffirmed their faith in the efficacy of nuclear technology for producing power for the people in future. As time passes, it is going to be popular. There are other methods which we are using for producing power. We are using thermal power technology. In coal mines, in power stations, in transportation, etc. accidents do take place. When an accident takes place, we are sorry. We have to take steps to see that they do not take place. But simply because one or two accidents have taken place, giving up this kind of technology (which is going to help us in future to tide over the difficulty of shortage of power) will not be a wise decision. Government of India is taking precautions to see that accidents do not take place. But we do not want to give it up.

**Missile test range in Balasore, Orissa**

\*290. **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to State :

(a) whether Missile Test Range has been set up in Balasore, Orissa as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated 22 May 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more Missile Test Ranges are proposed to be set up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI**

**ARUN SINGH) :** (a) It has been decided to set up a flight test range as a National Facility for testing rockets and similar systems and for launching satellites by Deptt. of Space, in coastal region of District Balasore Orissa. Go-Ahead sanction for the project has been accorded. The detailed planning is in progress.

(b) About 68 sq. km. of land 16800 acres of land south of Subarnrekha River, in Baliapal region is proposed to be acquired for the Range Head and about 34 sq. km area, 9800 acres of land north-east of Subarnrekha river, in Bhograi region is required as Safety Zone. In addition other pockets of land some area along the coast, 8400 acres of land naturally claimed from the sea, is also to be acquired/taken over from the State Govt. About 6500 families spread over 54 villages would be displaced and suitably resettled/rehabilitated. Cultivation in the safety zone and fishing in the sea will be allowed subject to certain regulatory measures.

(c) There is no proposal to set up more such test ranges.

(d) Not applicable.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Defence Ministry, the Defence Minister and the Prime Minister for taking a decision for setting up a Missile Test Range in a district of Orissa. Missile testing is being carried out by U.S.A. and other big powers of the world and I am of the view that it is necessary for us also. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for reducing the range to 68 kms from 116 kms. fixed earlier ? Has the reduction been made for safety reasons or are there some other reasons for it ? The measures have resulted in acquisition of less land. Besides, we have imported some technology for this as suggested by the space scientists and the Defence Department. I would like to know the time by which this project will be completed so as to provide more facilities for the country's security ?

**SHRI ARUN SINGH :** Earlier, when this project was examined, it is evident that an area of 116 sq. kms. was being surveyed but it so happened that some heavily populated and very rich agricultural belt fell within it. Therefore, we re-examined it. The Government of Orissa requested us to re-examine it and to minimise the requirements of this range as far as possible and, if possible, the agricultural belt should be excluded from this range. We again undertook an exercise on it. A new aspect which came to the fore was that there was some coastal land which was being reclaimed from the sea on a regular basis. We added that land to the project and thus reduced the size of the project. As a result of it, the number of families to be affected was reduced to 6500 from 10000 to 12300 originally.

So far as the second point is concerned, it has dual capability range. The Ministry of Defence as well as the Department of space will use it. So far as the space programme is concerned, Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle would be launched from here. As of now, it is being launched from Safar and its site is east-west and if Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle is to be launched from east-west site, 30 per cent pay-load will have to be reduced. So far as Balasore is concerned, its site is north-south. We shall have the advantage of 30 per cent more pay load if we launch it from north-south site. So far as the technology is concerned, I do not know much about space technology. If you ask the question from the other Minister, he will be able to tell you about it. So far as the technology of Defence Department is concerned, we are developing it indigenously and we are continuing with our programme in this field. In totality, the whole project would last for 10 years, but we expect that our initial launches will start from 1986.

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** My second supplementary is that a number of newspapers have carried reports to the effect that farmers and labourers are going to be affected there. I am of the view that what is being done is good for the country. At the same time,

it has resulted in a question of rehabilitation in an area of 115 sq. Kms. in my constituency. In my opinion, it is good from country's security point of view and they should not resort to agitation by resorting to a Morcha. The State Government and the Defence Ministry should help in resolving the unemployment problem in the area that may arise in view of the development of the Model village on the land acquired from the State Government as is evident from the Statement made by the Secretary of your Department. I would request the hon. Minister to provide all possible relief to the people likely to be affected so that the work may continue smoothly.

**SHRI ARUN SINGH :** The action on the lines of the suggestions given by the hon. Member has already started. We have formed a joint team comprising the Ministry of Defence and the Government of Orissa. I shall spell out the major points that we are going to handle. The compensation for the land acquired will be paid on the basis of value of the agricultural land. As for the land which has been encroached upon, compensation will be paid on the basis of temporary assets. It is surprising that 50 per cent of the total project area has been encroached upon.

*[English]*

Fifty per cent of the total project area is already Government land. Unfortunately, it has been encroached upon and cultivated.

*[Translation]*

Due to this, there are many families who have encroached upon the land and now it is becoming a problem for them. Since they do not have ownership rights on Government land, they will not get land compensation. But in the cases where there are temporary assets or crops, compensation will be given for the total standing crop. Each family will be given transportation grant for shifting their belonging and building material to the rehabilitation sites. We are developing a model village. It is a joint project in which our Ministry and the State Government are involved.

Each family is being given a homestead site; this is quite a big thing. Thirty per cent families are landless labourers and each of them will be given a homestead site.

[*English*]

They will become land owners. (*Interruptions*). They will have their own land on which they will build homes. We will build the homes and give to them. That is how they get homes.

[*Translation*]

There is a very big programme under the 'model village' Schools, Veterinary Centres, Youth Centres, a hospital, training institutes, post office, banks, etc. are being provided. An I.T.I. is being set up there by the Department of Defence to impart training to those people at the very site in Balasore district. A 50 bed hospital is being constructed.

MR. SPEAKER : It has become too lengthy.

[*English*]

SHRI ARUN SINGH : There are a large number of schemes like that.

(*Interruptions*.)

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : That is my area, Sir

(*Interruptions*.)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Orissa is a neighbouring State of Andhra Pradesh.

(*Interruptions*.)

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has come across the press statement of the Leader of the opposition of the Orissa Assembly who holds a very high position in a particular national party, and he has declared that this system of security arrangement is not necessary. If so, what is the reaction of the Government ?

SHRI ARUN SINGH : Sir, the hon. Member's Statement is correct. A very senior eminent personality of Orissa has unfortunately decided to take the line that...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Almost all.

SHRI ARUN SINGH : My apologies to him. It is not "almost all". One particular gentleman—I will not give the name—has decided to take the line that the Indian Republic does not need a National Test Facility and this I would like to categorically State, is a very dangerous line to take. It is my submission that all the Members of the House will join me in saying that it is necessary for us to indigenise defence capability to the maximum extent possible...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : At a suitable site.

(*Interruptions*.)

SHRI ARUN SINGH : That would create the technologies that are required for defence and security of our country and in that circumstances, National Test Range is an inescapable necessity.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that this particular site Baliapal in the Balasore district of Orissa is the greenest belt in the entire Orissa and thousands of agriculturists and fishermen will be involved and as a result, those who have taken up the construction activity. (*Interruptions*). Sir, my question is to the Minister and not to the Congress Members.

Is it not a fact that a number of people supporting this idea of a national Test range have met the Prime Minister—among them are MPs, former MLAs from Orissa—and have told the Prime Minister that though they would welcome such a project but it should not be at the greenest spot in Orissa. Is it not a fact that they have suggested alternative sites—Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands ? Is it not a fact that the Prime Minister told

them that "with the help of experts, if you are able to find out some alternative site, you discuss it with them and, if necessary—the Prime Minister has agreed—even I am myself prepared to visit that site and find out if there are difficulties".

In the light of that, in the light of expert opinion and also opinion of the Opposition Parties and also in the light of that opinion, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the ruling Party as well as the Opposition Party have staged demonstration in Orissa saying, we are not against this project but against this particular spot.

In view of that, will you consider the expert opinion and give us an opportunity to formulate our alternate proposals further and see that this good project takes place, is constructed but not at the green spot but at some other spot where least damage will be done and least human misery will be caused to the agriculturists and the fishermen.

SHRI ARUN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has had a long and elaborate question. I crave your indulgence to give a long and elaborate answer.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I cannot compress it further.

SHRI ARUN SINGH : The first point that I would like to make is, it is not unusual for us to go for a land acquisition in which 50% of the land required for the project is already Government land.

About the National Test Range, I have already explained the reason why we want a North-South range.

A North-South National Test Range, on the Indian sub-continent, is limited in terms of its capability geographically. We cannot find sites, except by the firing over the land mass of India and we are not going to fire over the land mass of India. In the circumstances, 30 sites were investigated before Balasore was agreed upon. This investigation was completed somewhere around September-October, last year.

I took a somewhat an unusual step, if I may say so, of discussing, both through correspondence and orally, with a large number of leaders from Orissa, particularly Opposition leaders.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : What is unusual about it ?

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : I tell you why it is unusual. It is because we spent four months on this exercise. You said, you have not been given an opportunity to give your views. We spent four months on this exercise of discussing the matter with them and we ended up with presentation in the Ministry of Defence where the gentlemen were invited and a presentation was made. At the end of that exercise, there was no possibility except this. I say so with deep regrets that there was no possibility of convincing them of the rationality of the argument, because what they were looking for after this was the political benefit.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I seriously object to it. Thousands of agriculturists are involved. We are not opposed to this project. *(Interruptions)* Do not be unfair to those who have taken a constructive stand.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Why did the Government of Orissa oppose it, for political reasons ?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SINGH : I am not refusing to listen. Mr. Dandavate is kind enough to make a long and elaborate question. I should be allowed to give a long and elaborate reply after which you can ask anything you would like. We were told that "All right. Everything is seen. Why cannot we have this in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands ?" During the course of the presentation, we spent a lot of time trying to explain why we could not have it in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I will, in very brief terms, give certain reasons, why not. The first and most critical reason is this. Out of 365 days in the year, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are under cloud and/or rain for 294 days. We cannot set up a national

test range facility on a site where we will get about 70 clear days a year. We must have a facility where at least 200 clear days are available. It is necessary for us to have these clear days for two reasons. When the satellite is being tracked, when the launch is being tracked, there are two types of tracking. There is optical tracking for which clear sky and visibility levels are necessary. There is also other tracking like radar in which that necessity is not there. But we told them it is absolutely necessary for us to have visual tracking. That is first point.

The second point which I have to make is that as far as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are concerned, as of now, there is nothing locally available. There is no stone, there is no brick, there is no gravel and there is no cement. We have to transport everything from the mainland, from the first day, for purposes of construction. We would have to build airfield on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands which is adequate to take the largest transportation aircraft and thereafter all the supply for ever will be from the mainland and we would be prejudicing the future for 100 years. All resupply would have to be ex-mainland of India at a cost which would steadily increase in uneconomic terms. In the circumstances, we pleaded with them.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Money is important or human beings are important ?

**SHRI ARUN NEHRU :** We said "Look, let us both concentrate our energies on the resettlement and rehabilitation of the affected families. You tell us what schemes are necessary. You tell us how we will be able to implement. We will go along with them. We will work with a common objective." Unfortunately, that has not happened. I cannot say, why. So far, there has been no evidence of this and all that is happening is that a large amount of local sympathy is being stirred up against the concept of a test range.

One more point I would like to make.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** It is wrong.

**SHRI ARUN SINGH :** It is not wrong.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** It is not only wrong; it is untruth. I do not say lie; I say untruth.

**SHRI ARUN SINGH :** Subtle distinctions are best known to them. I do not understand. I tell you why I am saying this. We have been told in writing in a letter to the Prime Minister that the reason why we want to set up a national test range is that it is mala fide because what we want to do is to create a nuclear capability. I categorically say and I State here on the floor of the House, that there is no such proposal.

*(Interruptions)*

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Let it be made clear. The Memorandum which is signed and to which I am a signatory, does not contain this. It says that we welcome the site but we want an alternate site.

**SHRI ARUN SINGH :** With due apology to Prof. Madhu Dandavate...

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH :** The hon. Opposition Member is saying something which is not a fact. I would like the hon. Minister to say whether it is a fact or not that the Janata Party in 1978 proposed this site and it was okayed in 1980. Now the Janata Party there led by Mr. Biju Patnaik has started an agitation; so all this is happening.

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER :** Order, please. Let the Minister reply.

**SHRI ARUN SINGH :** With due respect to Prof. Dandavate, I would suggest that it may be better that if they sort

out their internal difference on this matter.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** We have sorted out and given you a unanimous recommendation. We welcome the test range; only for the site we are opposed to.

**SHRI ARUN SINGH :** Subsequent to the unanimous recommendation there is a letter that I am talking about. In the circumstances perhaps they may review it again.

All I can say is that we are very conscious of the fact that we are going to disturb the lives and the income-earning capability of a substantial number of people. We are aware of that. We believe that the national test range facility is absolutely essential for the nation. In the circumstances our objective now is not to cancel the national test range capability but to resettle and rehabilitate the affected populations to whatever extent we can and in the most efficient and effective manner we can.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** One clarification. The Minister has agreed that I can seek a clarification I want to know from the Minister. Throughout India is this the only greenspot that is available? I am asking a clarification. Throughout India is this the only spot that is available?

*(Interruptions)*

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** He was on his legs to clarify. This is a very important point...

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER :** I have allowed more time on this question, It is better you have a debate later on.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH :** You have given chance to Mr. Dandavate. Please given us also a chance. In 1978 it was the Janata Party...

*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER :** Please listen to me. You will be satisfied. I cannot do justice to this question only by allowing you a few minutes more. So it is better that you have some more time later on.

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) :** The latest position, if I am right, was that he has agreed to everything. Mr. Arun Singh has said.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Right from the very beginning I have agreed. I have agreed to reject, but only we are opposed to the site. You are destroying the greenest belt of Orissa. We shall never tolerate it. Sir, he was clarifying that.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You can have half-an-hour discussion.

*[Translation]*

**Steps to prevent acid rain**

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\*291. **DR. CHANDAR SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :**

**SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the threat of acid rain in India is growing;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make any effort to ward off this threat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor ?

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) According to the India Meteorological Department, there is no evidence of acid rain problem in the country as indicated