

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Statement

*Tuesday, July 22, 1986/Asadha 31,
1908 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Development of small scale industrial units in Lakshadweep

*61. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the issue of setting up small scale industrial units in Lakshadweep has been considered;

(b) if so, the names of specific industrial areas in which there is a scope;

(c) the details of the scheme which the Development Commissioner of Small Scale Industries has chalked out;

(d) whether some approximate time limit has been fixed by which the development programmes will be initiated; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) to (e). A statement is given below,

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The issue of setting up small scale industrial units in Lakshadweep has been receiving continuous attention. In 1979, the SISI, Trichur, conducted an Industrial Potential Survey of Lakshadweep Islands and recommended establishment of industrial estates, common facility services, provision of infrastructural facilities and identified resource-based and demand-based industries for development in the small scale sector. In pursuance of the recommendations, industrial estates have been set up at Kavaratti and Andrott and a number of small scale units have come up.

Another survey was conducted by SISI, Trichur, in 1986. With a view to giving further fillip to the pace of industrialisation, the recommendations of this survey were considered at an Inter-Ministerial Meeting taken by the Union Minister of Industry in May, 1986. At this meeting a Group comprising the officers of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) and the Collector-cum-Development Commissioner, Lakshadweep was constituted to work out a Plan of Action as well as details of nucleus cell to be set up by DCSSI for working out the feasibility studies of industries having potential for development in the area.

The Action Plan prepared envisages, *inter alia*, setting up of a nucleus cell in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep by the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, which will examine in detail the potential for development of industries in horological, electronics, and electro-mechanical industries besides other relevant areas keeping in view the requirements of two broad categories of manpower, namely, less educated = unskilled and the educated unemployed. One of the main considerations for identification

of industries in Lakshadweep should be value addition in view of the high transport cost and other constraints.

(d) and (e). Implementation of Action Plan has already been taken up. Sanction has been issued for the creation of a post of Assistant Director to head Nucleus Cell and initiate appropriate action on the lines suggested in the Action Plan.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : For the past two decades I have been representing Lakshadweep. I think, this is the first time that I am beginning the Question Hour. I am fortunate to get first place in the draw. I expect the Hon. Minister also to be liberal while answering the question. You will remember that I asked the question of industrialisation of the Island in this very House in the last session and they had assured that the industries that would be set up in Lakshadweep would have a specific significance because ecological balance was adversely affected. Therefore, you also very kindly asked them to consider sympathetically to set up electronic assembling units in Lakshadweep. The Industry Minister was kind enough to set up an inter-ministerial committee. Its meeting also took place. They have considered this matter in minute detail. And a press note has also gone accordingly that they would set up electronic assembling units. Now I understand that they are denying it. They have started surveying the industrial potential. A survey was conducted in 1979. Again the survey was conducted in 1986. This inter-ministerial committee also considered this survey. Again they have started the survey, only to study the survey reports. I do not know by what time a concrete shape will take place so as to establish electronic assembling units in Lakshadweep. If the Hon. Minister assures the House about it, that would satisfy me.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : After the survey it was found that there were 52 industrial units that were existing there. As far as electronic industry is concerned, an inter-ministerial committee meeting has been taken under the leadership of our Minister, Shri N. D. Tewary. It has been decided to set up a nucleus cell in DC SSI Office to examine the details and potential for deve-

lopment of industries and also for preparing the feasibility report. The possibilities of development of horological and electronics industries would also be explored by the nucleus cell.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : The Geological Survey of India has conducted an extensive survey regarding the mineral resources in Lakshadweep. They have come out with the report that calcareous sand which is available in plenty in the lagoons, is a raw material for a number of industries like chemical, paper, even steel making. So, they have also suggested the escavation of the calcareous sand to the depth of one metre without affecting adversely the ecological balance. On the basis of that, the Island Administration, after having gone through the matter in detail, have prepared a project report and proposed to set up some white cement industries in Lakshadweep. For the past four years they have been expecting approval from the Ministry. The raw material itself is scarce there. So, will the Hon Minister look into this aspect and on the basis of this project report give clearance at an early date ?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : It is a fact that the Indian Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey of India have identified phosphate deposits. I am not aware of the proposal for setting up of the cement industry in Lakshadweep may affect the ecology of the Island.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Sahib, the word 'Acharya' that I spoke yesterday was the translation of Professor.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I did not realise that. I thought you were referring to him.

Sir, I will ask a question on the basis of our visit to Lakshadweep. When the Estimates Committee Members visited the Lakshadweep Islands, we were taken to one island where hundred per cent women folk run a small industry in which they have the tinned

tuna fish. It is extremely tasty product .. (Interruptions). I know that you are a life-time vegetarian but if you taste it once, all your life you will be on this food. Such a wonderful product...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is trying to convert me .

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Even realising that if you become non-vegetarian, you might be more tolerant during Zero Hour...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Prof. Dandavate is putting politics at par with fish and thinks that if one tastes it even once it becomes a lifetime habit.

MR. SPEAKER : He thinks fish is a vegetable food.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister is it not a fact that though very fine product in the form of tinned tuna fish is manufactured in that Island, about a lakh of tonnes are left unsold and as a result of that, that tuna fish factory is in loss. Since the Defence Forces very much require this tinned fish, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he will have a firm commitment from the Defence Forces that this tinned tuna fish will be purchased by them on a large-scale so that they will get good consumer market and, at the same time, the factory can become economically viable. It is a constructive question that I have asked and I require a positive constructive answer.

MR. SPEAKER : And also there is one more question from the Chair. If it is so tasty, how is it that it is not sold ?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I do not know the taste of the tuna fish...(Interruptions). Already there is a canning unit existing in the Island under the control of the Adminis-

tration but it is under-utilised. The Agricultural Department has proposed to have a Fishery Development Corporation in that Island. After that we will consider the request of Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Where is the question of consultation. They can use the good offices of their Ministry, approach the Defence Ministry and make them a proposal through you.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I will take up the issue with the Defence Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you pursue it.

[Translation]

Letters of intent for diesel and petrol pumps

*62 DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a report from the excise authorities is necessary for issue of letters of intent for diesel and petrol pumps;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of cases where letters of intent have been issued without a report from excise authorities, particularly in Lucknow city; and

(c) the action taken by Government in such cases to enforce statutory restrictions including action against guilty officials, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) No, Sir. No report is necessary from excise authorities before issue of letters of intent for diesel and petroleum dealerships.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware