

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, May 6, 1987/Vaisakha
16, 1909 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock.*

[MR SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

WELCOME TO THE COLOMBIAN
PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

[*English*]

MR SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Hon'ble Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Dr. Cristo, Vice-President of the Colombian Senate and Hon'ble Members of the Colombian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other Hon'ble Members of the Delegation are:

- (1) Senator Dr. Turbay
- (2) Senator Dr. Rueda
- (3) Senator Dr. Barjuch
- (4) Senator Dr. Martín-Leyes
- (5) Senator Dr. Sedano
- (6) Dr. Florian, M.P.
- (7) Dr. Ayala, M.P.
- (8) Dr. Borre, M.P.

(9) Dr. Silva, M.P.

(10) Dr. Turbay, M.P.

The Delegation arrived Delhi on 2 May, 1987. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Senate and the Chamber of Representatives, the Government and the friendly people of the Colombia.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Cost of Narora Atomic Power Plant

*921. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether cost of Atomic Power Project at Narora has gone up to Rs. 800 crores;

(b) the original estimated cost of the project; and

(c) the longevity of Narora Atomic Power Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b). The original sanctioned cost of the project was Rs. 209.89 crores (1972 prices) which was revised to Rs. 399.64 crores (1982 prices).

(c) The design life of Narora Atomic Power Project is 25 years, though it is expected to continue to generate power safely over a longer period.

DR. V. VENKATESH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we all know, the ignorant, illiterate and downtrodden in our country are anxiously awaiting the young and energetic Prime Minister of India to take them to the 21st century. Even otherwise we will go to the 21st century, Sir...(Interruptions)...Sir, in spite of this, we will reach.

The project cost is about Rs. 399.64 crores and the life span of this project will be only 25 years.

MR. SPEAKER: Read the latter half of the answer also.

DR. V. VENKATESH: Therefore, to protect this project after the life span, we will have to protect it for another 25,000 years. So, what will be the cost? Actually, there is a hue and cry throughout the country. They wanted to disband this system.

MR. SPEAKER: Put the question.

DR. V. VENKATESH: I, therefore, wanted to know from the Hon'ble Prime Minister because the Narora project is situated on the seismic zone and bank of the Ganga river and it is hardly 150 kms. from Delhi. You know, Sir, we can expect accidents any moment with all our caution. But accidents can be prevented. Prevention is better than cure. It is a universal truth.

MR. SPEAKER: You put the question now.

DR. V. VENKATESH: Therefore, I am asking whether the hon. Prime Minister is going to stop the Narora plant in order to avoid the nuclear hazards which are likely to reach Delhi itself. So many historical places are around Narora.

MR. SPEAKER: The lives of the people otherwise are also very important, not only in Delhi.

DR. V. VENKATESH: I would like to know whether the hon. Prime Minister is going to stop this or whether he will go for independent expert opinion of social scientists and other prominent people of this country.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: I can tell the hon. Member that the Government has no intention of stopping the work on the Narora plant. We propose to work on and complete this project. We are fully aware of the dangers of atomic energy the hon. Member has mentioned. We have taken every possible precautions to avoid such dangers breaking out. Atomic energy is a fact of life in the world today. In fact, many advanced countries have adopted this as a source of power. In a country like France over sixty per cent of the power generation comes from the atomic resources and we should not be timid in our opinion to accept this technology with all the precautions for containing its ill-effects particularly from radiation or any other danger that may arise.

DR. V. VENKATESH: Throughout the world a number of countries are going for atomic energy that is the impression he has given to the House. But everywhere there are two options, whether to go for atomic energy or conventional energy. In our country we have got a lot of natural resources; a lot of water is flowing to the sea without any use, there are a lot of floods as also drought situations. We are spending crores of rupees on the common man.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not put the question but lecture all the time. That is the problem with you. Put your question.

DR. V. VENKATESH: I am just formulating the question

MR. SPEAKER: You always try to formulate and lose the impact of the question.

DR. V. VENKATESH: These accidents are not only occurring in India, these are spread throughout the world.

MR. SPEAKER. Again you are jumbling Put your question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE. Say, whether...

DR V VENKATESH Whether the Government...(*Interruptions*). It is a serious matter. I am a man belonging to the medical profession and am supposed to protect the life of the common man.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: In case you are a doctor, then may God save us.

[*English*]

DR. V. VENKATESH: Therefore, I want to put a straight question to the hon. Prime Minister. Throughout the world they are going for nuclear energy; there is no other alternative for energy. I would like to know whether the hon. Prime Minister is going for a dialogue in the world to find out the safety measures to avoid the accidents, etc.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): The hon. Member has raised a very valid point. We have already started this exercise of going into the safety factors, the safety arrangements, the backup arrangements in case of an accident and what is really required to be done with all our functioning nuclear power stations. We have also talked with some countries to try and get their help in case of accidents or disasters if they occur. We are looking at this seriously. All our power plants at the moment are functioning well, our safety record is good. There is no need for the hon. Member to worry. I am told, subject to correction, that the radiation that is given off by a normal thermal power station is more than the radiation that is let out in the atmosphere by nuclear power station.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANAND SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the Chernobyl accident, have our scientists thought of bringing any

change in the basic design of the Narora Plant and have any safety arrangements been made in case such an accident occurs? An accident in Bombay occurred due to theft of an atomic pencil out of ignorance and that accident had resulted in many people getting injured and hospitalised. I want to know as to what is being done to educate the people residing in adjacent areas of Narora? In addition, have any changes been made in the basic design of the Narora Plant in view of the Chernobyl disaster?

[*English*]

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Sir, as the Prime Minister said a little while ago, we have provided all manner of safeguards that are available for science and technology while devising and constructing these plants. First of all engineering devices have been incorporated in these plants against any possible radiation or other kinds of dangers. I have mentioned several times in this House, mechanisms like double containment, automatic shut down of the plant in case of danger, etc. have been incorporated in the design. We have also conducted maintenance precautions for the plant as well as educational information is being given to the personnel working there as to how to protect them against any possible kind of radiation. Exercises have also been conducted and in fact a very high level Committee was set up in order to go into security measures to be undertaken in all our atomic plants. I can, therefore, assure the Member that there is no extra danger involved in the construction or operation of these plants. Something was mentioned about the seismic conditions at Narora. I wish to point out that the entire country of Japan is a seismic region. There are over 31 reactors in Japan. We have actually engineered into the Narora Plant with all kinds of anti-earthquake safeguards.

SHRI ANAND SINGH: It is good that the instructions are being given to the workers, but the villagers living around

these plants should also be educated as to what to do.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: Sir, there has also been a programme for educating the people around as well as the general public regarding atomic radiation, as to how to protect themselves.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Sir, the question mainly relates to cost and revision of the cost of plants. Both the question and answer are off the track. The question was asked, whether it is going to revise it to 800 crores. You neither say yes nor no but you only gave the figures, that originally it was estimated, based on 1972 figures prices Rs. 209 crores. It was further revised, based on 1982 price, to Rs. 399 crores. Now, has it been again revised to Rs. 800 crores. which we have to take it since you have not said anything about it. If you leave the question, it looks as if you agree that the project is going to be revised to Rs. 800 crores. Is it yes or no? And, since the question of safety factor has been brought in, I would like to know whether the construction of Waste Management Plant, which was scheduled to be completed in early 1987 has been completed or not? Has it been completed or is there any time over-run or cost over run in this project also?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN: With regard to the question whether the estimates have been revised to Rs. 800 crores, the answer is 'no'. We have given a positive answer saying that the revision was to the extent of Rs. 399 crores. No further revision of the cost has taken place.

As regards the waste management, a plant, as you know, is under construction. So, the plant for treating the waste will also be constructed.

In regard to other plants, we already have not only the technology but arrangement for storing as well as reprocessing and managing the waste.

World Bank Loan to Oil India Limited

*922. **DR. G.S. RAJHANS:** Will the Minister

of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has recently extended loan worth \$ 140 million to the Oil India Limited for new exploration work and also for new schemes to improve production;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the manner in which the Oil India Limited will invest the loan; and

(d) to what extent the production of the oil in the country will be boosted and the imports will be minimised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (d) A Statement is given below

STATEMENT

(a) The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) has recently approved a loan of \$ 140 million to India for Oil India Limited Petroleum Project. However, the loan agreements are yet to be signed.

(b) The loan would be for 20 years, including a 5 year grace period with a variable interest, currently 7.92%, linked to the cost of World Bank borrowings. It also carries an annual commitment charges of 0.75% on undisbursed balance. These are standard IBRD terms.

(c) The project comprises (i) application of production improvement schemes such as infill drilling, pressure maintenance, work-over of wells including hydraulic fracturing and application of enhanced oil recovery techniques in some of the partially depleted oil fields in Assam, (ii) implementation of gas reinjection scheme and associated gas supply network in a few oil fields in Assam; (iii) exploration, involving acquisition and interpretation of high resolution seismic data and drilling of exploratory wells, and (iv) institution building to strengthen OIL's tech-