

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, February 25, 1987/Phalgun 6,
1908 (Saka)

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

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Relationship of Indian Science Congress
Association with American Association
for Advancement of Science

*21. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA† :
SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOW-
DHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased
to state :

(a) whether the Indian Science
Congress is divided over the role of the
Indian Science Congress Association and
its association with American Association
for Advancement of Science;

(b) whether the ISCA is seeking foreign
collaboration in fields that are outside its
academic area; and

(c) whether some of the invited
Scientists from USA passed some adverse
remarks about Indian Scientists ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNO-
LOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN
DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY,
ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R.
NARAYANAN) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government have no information
that the invited scientists from USA have
passed adverse remarks about Indian
scientists.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He
is Minister Incharge of Negative Replies.

MR. SPEAKER : Minus into minus
makes plus.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The
top scientists of the country have been
dismayed by the conversion of Indian
Science Congress into a forum of American
Congress of Advancement of Science.
Three days were taken for discussing the
problems of science with the representatives
of American Association and 60 per cent
of the time was spent for preparing a
meeting with the American scientists. Is it
a fact that American scientists were invited
as delegates whereas previously foreign
scientists had participated as observers ?
Is it also a fact that Indian Science
Congress was divided on the role of ISCA
and its association with the American
Association for Advancement of Science ?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : On the
question of fact, may I first of all say that
the Indian Science Congress Association is
completely an autonomous body which
makes its own decisions. Because of this
fact of the situation it is true that
scientists from American Association for
Advancement of Science were invited.
In fact, it is a regular practice for the
Science Congress to invite foreign delegates
to its annual Congress. There is nothing
unusual with it. In fact, this has been
going on for years ever since the Indian
Science Congress began functioning. It is
completely untrue that three days were spent
by the Congress discussing with the Ameri-
can scientists. What happened was that the
Indian Science Congress Association invited
American scientists from the AAAS for a
seminar prior to the Science Congress,

The discussions referred to were held in that Congress. Not 60 per cent but 100 per cent of the discussion there was a dialogue between Indian scientists and American scientists because that Seminar was between the two parties. But as far as the Congress itself is concerned, it is completely untrue that so much time was taken. In fact, it is a practice when foreign delegates come to our Congress, for the Congress to take advantage of their presence and to allow them to participate in discussions, symposia and even to give specially arranged lectures. There has been no domination of American Scientists in the Congress. It is true that quite a number of American scientists came on invitation for two functions—one for the seminar prior to the Congress and the other for the Congress itself.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He has not answered second part of my question *i.e.* whether the Indian Science Congress was divided on this issue or not.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : I think there was absolutely no division in the Science Congress at all on this. In fact, if you look at the number of Indian scientists who attended the Seminar, you will find that almost all of our top scientists participated in the Seminar which was held before the Congress. There was no question of any division at all. It is true that some press reports appeared and I want to say that there is not much substance in the reports which appeared in the Press.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Indian scientists have sought help from American Science Association to overcome such problems as soil erosion, environmental degradation at mine sites and deforestation, and to promote suitable agricultural area where Green Revolution has brought adverse effect.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Sir, the topic of the Science Congress as well as of the Seminar was "Resources and Human Well-being—Inputs of Science and Technology". What the hon. Member has mentioned are part of this theme and naturally discussions were held at the Seminar with the American scientists. It was a dialogue and in the academic sphere

it has been a practice. There is actually an agreement between the Indian Science Congress and the American Society for the Advancement of Sciences for bilateral cooperation between the two bodies. It is cooperation on an academic basis, exchange of views, exchange of information and help in a general manner between the scientists of the two countries. There was nothing done outside the academic area at the Congress or at the Seminar.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Supplementary on this question or the new question ?

MR. SPEAKER : As you like.

Karnataka Proposal for Conversion of Overdrafts

*22. **PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has suggested the alternative of converting the outstanding overdrafts into a long-term loan repayable over 15 to 20 years so as to avoid heavy liability of repayment during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has provided medium-term loans to State Governments for clearing their overdrafts in 1985. Repayment of these loans during the Seventh Plan period had been taken into account while finalising the funding arrangements for the Seventh Plan of the respective States. As such, reconsideration of the earlier decision was not necessary and the Government of Karnataka was informed accordingly.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, though technically the question is related only to Karnataka, but it concerns all the States—non-Congress as well as Congress