

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :

The hon. Minister has said in his reply that the iron ore is of good quality and it is being exported. Its export went down in 1987-88. Is there any scheme to set up an export oriented industry based on this iron ore so that we could utilise the export item here itself and make exports after manufacturing iron out of it ?

SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR : The hon. Member is right to say that the quantum of export went down last year, but there has been an increase this year. During the first three months of last year, i.e. from April to June, 2.8 million tonnes of ore was exported, but the hon. Member will be happy to note that during the corresponding period this year, i.e., 1988-89, 3.7 million tonnes of ore has been exported. So far as his industry is concerned, we have not so far received any such proposal from the Government of Goa.

[English]

**Satpati Fishing Harbour Project,
Maharashtra**

*230. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the revised project cost of the Satpati Fishing Harbour Project was sent by Maharashtra Government in October, 1985 and Union Government had urged the State Government to further revise the project ;

(b) whether the State Government has returned the revised project ;

(c) if so, whether the project has been sanctioned ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The revised cost estimate for fishing Harbour at Satpati stated to have been sent by Government of Maharashtra in October, 1985 has not been received by the Government of India.

(b) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that no such letter was received in 1985 from the Maharashtra Government. I did not expect such an irresponsible reply from the Government at least when the question is asked in the House. The question is in my name. Had the opposition asked the question, it would have become a privilege issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Who stopped you from raising a privilege issue ?

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : The Maharashtra Government wrote a letter, No. FDX/-2779/1044(9)/ADF-12 dated 31st October, 1985. The reply in 1987 was that it was revised in 1985, but there was a need to revise it for a further period of two years. These are the kind of replies given by the Government in the House. Fishing is a means of livelihood for the poor. The primary duty of the Government is to provide means of livelihood to the poor under its 20-Point Programme. But I do not know what happens to the Centre in matters concerning the Maharashtra Government. A number of projects like the Meerkavada Fisheries Harbour, Agar Danda Fishery Harbour, Satpathy Fishery Harbour and Riwaas Fisheries Harbour project are pending with the Government. What is the concerned Department doing about processing these projects ? The Government should expedite these projects....

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Do not depend on the Secretaries. How is the Government going to go about completing these projects ? Can the hon. Minister give us a time-bound assurance ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker Sir, in this context, if I disclose in the august House the nature of correspondence that took place between the Centre and Maharashtra Government, the hon. Member will have to change his opinion altogether.

In July, 1981 the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries sent a feasibility report to the Ministry. In September 1981, this feasibility report was

sent to the Maharashtra Government to know whether they would agree to its planning. The report was also sent to the Planning Commission for their concurrence. In December, 1981, the Planning Commission's concurrence was received while the Maharashtra Government sent its part-concurrence. In January, 1982, the State Government was once again asked for its comments. In February, 1982 a copy of the feasibility report was sent to the State Government as desired by them. In 1983 World Bank assistance was sought for the proposed pipe-line project. In September 1983 the pipe-line project was completed as its total budget was less than Rs. 25 crores. The State Government was intimated to this effect. As no communication was received from the State Government since 1981, another letter was written to the State Government. In March, 1987 a letter was received from the State Government saying that the project proposal sent in 1985 be sanctioned. Letters were written again in April and September, 1985, but no proposal was received by the Ministry. Once again letters were sent in September 1987 and January 1988 but in spite of that no proposal was received. It is only now, in July 1988, that the State Government has intimated that it is up dating the feasibility report. They have been asked to send the report. I feel, it would be better if the State Government takes more interest in this matter.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Forget all that. Tell us about the latest position.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : The feasibility report or the project report has not been received and as such, it has made no headway. The State Government should take more interest in this matter to make the project a success. It is not true when the hon. Member says that even other schemes pertaining to Maharashtra were treated in the same manner. A total of Rs. 18 crores has been earmarked for the fishery harbour schemes. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 4 crores has gone to Maharashtra. Of the 82 Fishing Landing Centres in the country, 29 have been approved for Maharashtra. Apart from these, Ratnagiri is a minor part of Maharashtra having fishing harbour. A project for this was first sent by the State Government in

1977 with an estimated cost of Rs. 3 crores. In 1985 the cost escalated to Rs. 14.58 crores. The cost of the project for a small fishing landing centre at Mahim Causeway is Rs. 24.64 lakhs. A revised estimate is being taken for the Sassoon Dock which is going to be a major port of Bombay. The cost has increased to Rs. 8 crores from the original Rs. 4.05 crores, and 70% of the work is already complete. In this way, action is being taken on a number of schemes for Maharashtra and a lot of work has already been done.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : I am a Member of Parliament. I undertake to bring with me the concerned Minister and Secretaries of the Maharashtra Government. The necessary documents will also be brought. How long will the Government then take to clear this project? Otherwise poor people have to face problems.

AN HON. MEMBER : Give him a date on which the officials will be brought.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : There will not be any delay on the part of the Government.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I do not know whether the hon. Minister is vegetarian or a non-vegetarian, whether he relishes fish....

MR. SPEAKER : Are you prejudiced against us?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : May be. I am in opposition.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : I am strictly vegetarian.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to remind the hon. Minister that this particular place, Satpati, to which a reference has been made by the hon. Member while asking the question, is one of the best places where you are able to get a large quantity of fish and that too very tasty ones. Since you say that you are vegetarian, you will not realise it. There has been a persistent demand that for this project more funds should be made available and expeditiously the development must take place. You have mentioned some other projects also and you have referred to one in my constituency and

I am very happy about it. But I must say that unless you are able to give priority to these projects, poor men, particularly the poor fishermen, and especially those who resort to fishing by non mechanised methods will not be able to get adequate fish. Will you assure the House and particularly those Members who are coming from coastal line that you will give priority to these projects and try to expedite them as early as possible ?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : As I mentioned earlier, we shall take steps as early as possible provided we receive full information and response from the State Governments. We have already provided funds for this project also. And as soon as we receive further details, it will be cleared. There will be no problem.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me make the position a fit more clear. Shri Purohit and Prof. Dandavate have stated that they would be bringing with them the Secretary and the Director. I would like to tell them that the Centre would clear the project within 30 days of its final submission by the Government of Maharashtra.

[English]

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited

*231. †**SHRI SURESH KURUP :**
SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited has been showing profits for the past few years ;

(b) if so, the statistics for the last three years ;

(c) whether there have been complaints of pilferage and malpractices in the working of this company ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and corrective measures taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R.

PRABHU) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir ; the profits made by the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) during the last 3 years are as follows :

Year	(Rs./crores)
1985-86	32.23
1986-87	20.11
1987-88	52.01 (Provisional)

(c) and (d). There were 41 cases of pilferage of stores worth Rs. 4,44,578/- in the last three years, but stores worth Rs. 2,48,353/- were recovered by Central Industrial Security Force/local police.

Apart from that, no other cases of malpractices have come to the notice of the management.

The corrective measures to control crime/pilferage taken by RCF are deployment of security staff at vulnerable points, gearing up of crime and intelligence staff and more intensive patrolling.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, different labour unions in the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited have submitted various memorandums pointing out specific corruption charges against some high officials in this concern, but no action has been taken by the authorities. I would like to know from the Minister whether any CBI enquiry was conducted against the high officials and whether the CBI have submitted their report and any action has been taken on that report.

SHRI R. PRABHU : The CBI have registered seven cases, two in 1986, 3 in 1987 and 2 in 1988 against officials of RCF. I can give you the details of cases if you require. It is a long list of officers against whom action is being taken as suggested by CBI. As far as the first case is concerned, the CBI report was received in October, 1987 recommending departmental action for major penalty against the accused officials. RCF have requested CBI in November, 1987 for additional documents and the case is being prusued. As far as the second CBI case to concerned, report was received in 1987. All the cases are being