

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 22nd March, 1984
[2 Chairtra, 1906 (Saka)]
The House met at eleven of the clock.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Visakhapatnam steel plant

*361. SHRI P. BABUL REDDY:

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: f

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

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(a) what is the total outlay required for the completion of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and the total amount required for the completion of the first and second stages;

(b) by when the first stage is likely to be completed and the amount spent on the project till now;

(c) whether the construction of the project is progressing as per schedule and the amount required to be spent has been spent; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The cost estimate for the 3.4 million tonnes (including the

the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy.

41RS—1

1.2 million tonnes stage) integrated steel plant in Visakhapatnam steel plant approved by Government is Rs. 3897.28 crores based on fourth quarter 1981 prices. The revised cost estimates based on current prices are being worked out.

(b) On the basis of the current progress of construction the first stage of this project is likely to be completed by 1987. Till the end of February 1984, Rs. 922.87 crores have been spent on this project.

(c) and (d) While the progress has exceeded the 1983-84 schedule in regard to the concreting and structural fabrication, there have been some slippages in some items such as erection of structures and equipment. The progress of this project is being monitored regularly and every effort is being made to make up slippages. Having regard to the finance available and the very large financial resources; a thorough review of the schedule of this project has been undertaken to synchronise the implementation of different inter-related segments of the projects fully consistent with the technological and operational parameters, matching the production plan in the project with the market and ensuring that expenditure is incurred in an optimal manner.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: The Minister has placed the answer to my question on the Table of the House. But my question was—What is the total outlay required for the completion of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and the total amount required for the completion of the first and second stages. There have been some slippages in some items such as erection of structures and equipment.

बंरा सवाल पूछने का यही मतलब था कि विशाखापट्टनम का जो स्टील प्लांट है, यह बहुत बड़ा प्लांट है, और प्रदेश के लिए और सारे देश के लिए इस प्रोजेक्ट को तत्कालीन करने में बहुत मुसीबत हो रही है, देरी हो रही है और इसके लिये जो रकम मुकदर करनी चाहिए, अलाट करनी चाहिए वह बराबर नहीं हो रही है। इसको साथ ही साथ इसके अन्दर कहा गया है कि :

...there have been some slippages in some items such as erection of structures and equipment.

मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो स्लिपज है एरिक्शन आफ स्ट्रक्चर्स और एक्विपमेन्ट के सिलसिले में, जो क्या आपने इतने दिनों तक कोई इकदामात नहीं लिये ताकि ये कामियां दूर हो जायें। क्या आप सदन और सारे देश को यकीन दिलायेंगे कि यह जो कामियां अब पाई जा रही हैं इसको फॉरवर्ड कर देंगे।

इसके साथ साथ दूसरा मेरा सवाल था कि :

Whether the construction of the project is progressing as per schedule and the amount required to be spent has been spent.

इसको तत्कालीन करने लिए जो रकम मुकदर की गई थी, वह पूरी रकम खर्च हुई या कम पड़ी? इस सम्बन्ध में आपके जवाब में कुछ नहीं कहा गया है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि इसको तत्कालीन करने में किसी किस्म की, रकमी तौर पर हो या किसी और तरीके की वजह से रुकावट हो, तो इसको दूर करने के लिए आप क्या इकदामात लेने जा रहे हैं?

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: The cost estimate for this 3.4 million tonnes integrated steel plant in Vishakhapatnam is 3,397.23 crores of rupees based on the 1981 prices. And on the basis of the current progress, the construction of first stage of the project is likely to be completed by 1987. Till the end of February 1984 a sum of Rs. 922.87 crores has been spent. While executing

a huge project like the one which we have taken up, there are bound to be some slippages and there has been continuous monitoring at every level.

And, Sir, the progress with regard to concreting and structural fabrication has exceeded the target which had been fixed. There has been some shortfall in structural and equipment erection and the primary reason for the shortfall in structural erection has been the non-availability of 'matching' steel. The progress of structural fabrication has been adversely affected due to the non-availability of certain things on the civil front also. So, there have been some slippages. But the understanding of the Ministry is that we should still be able to keep up to the schedule of 1987 for the commissioning of the first phase of this steel plant.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: I asked what was the total amount that was allocated so far. He has only stated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddy, the total amount does not mean anything. They have said that they would be able to keep up to the time-schedule of 1987.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: No, Sir. Saying that does not help us. So many things are said on the paper. But what is needed is the actual work. We are concerned only with the actual work and not concerned with what he says. We are concerned with the actual work, with the actual progress of the work. That is what we need now- I would like to know one thing from the honourable Minister. In his reply he has stated that up to 1984, a sum of Rs. 922.87 crores has been spent for the project. What was the estimate up to this year and how much out of that you have spent? You have

not stated what the estimate was for this year and out of that how much has been spent. This is what I would like to know.

Secondly, Sir, it has been stated that the total estimated amount for the integrated steel plant, as approved by the Government of India, is Rs. 3897.28 crores based on the 1981 prices. But the prices have gone up and day by day the prices are going up. So, I would like to know what his estimate is now because of the increase in the prices.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it is a very short question. Mr. Minister, he wants to know as to what is your achievement in respect of the money spent so far and whether the prices of 1981, which have risen now, will make any difference to your completion programme. It is as small as that.

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Sir, I have already tried to answer that question. I have said that the revised cost estimates at 1981 prices work out to Rs. 3,897.28 crores. Now, Sir, the point will be better appreciated if I tell him that in 1983-84, in the annual Plan, it was only a sum of Rs. 187 crores which was allotted for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. But, by way of supplementary grants, another Rs. 250 crores were added. So, the total in 1983-84 which we have spent is Rs. 437 crores, that is, Rs. 200 crores more than what was really provided for in the Plan. This only shows the earnestness of the Government of India and the Ministry of Steel to see that this project comes as per the schedule on stream.

SHRI B. KRISHNA MOHAN: Sir, from the honourable Minister's reply it appears that the Government of India is very earnest and the Government is doing its best for early completion of the Visa-

khapatnam Steel Plant and the accusation of the Chief Minister that the Centre is adopting a step-motherly attitude in the allocation of funds for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is baseless.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, the Chief Minister is not here and he cannot say all these things. *(Interruptions)*. How can he say that? It is for the Minister to say that this is baseless. It is not for this Member to say that. *(Interruptions)*. It is all absurd.

SHRI B. KRISHNA MOHAN: Sir, the Government proposes to acquire about 28,000 acres of land touching about 22 revenue villages. Villagers of about 22 villages will have to be rehabilitated. Naturally, huge compensation has to be paid to them. And Sir, if the villagers are not satisfied with the compensation provided to them, naturally, Sir, as you know they will move the court under section 18 of the Land Acquisition Act for the enhancement of the compensation. Most of the steel plants are located in an area of about ten to fifteen thousand acres. Therefore, in order to reduce the cost of the steel plant at Visakhapatnam, I would like to know whether the Government will consider the feasibility of reducing the extent of land required from 28,000 to ten or fifteen thousand acres. This is my question, Sir.

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Sir, the acquisition of land, providing for power, etc. is something which rests with the State Government and the question could as well be directed to the State Government.

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MAL- t LICK: Sir, I am asking a supp'e-mentary. I am happy that the hon. Prime Minister is also here. (*Interruptions*) Because the hon. Minister is very new. The Vizag , and Vijayanagar steel plants are election based— as early as in 1971. Anyway, I am not making that point. We want steel plants wherever it is possible, because we want self-sufficiency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What are you asking?

SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALIK: I am just coming to that (*Interruptions*) I want to ask about the second steel plant in Orissa. Already Rs. 1 crores have been spent in Orissa steel plant. It is not enough. I want the hon. Minister to tell how the second steel plant in Orissa is going to come up, where actually there are mineral deposits and Paradip also ^(*Interruptions*) I want to know the exact position in this respect. And I request the hon. Prime Minister also to intervene.

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: He started with elections and then he ended up in Orissa. Where is the relevance? The question has to be relevant. It does not arise out of this question. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have asked a question about one crore of rupees being spent on the Orissa steel plant. You say it is not enough. Is the Orissa steel plant in question?

SHRV HAREKRUSHNA MALLICK: Whereas the question is on stedn lants, why not Orissa? (Vnte.i *uptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: I rule it out. Next f uestion.

Denial of Visas to Foreign Delegates to the All India Conference of Student Federation of India

t362. SHRI GULAM MOHI-
UDDIN SHAWL:f

SHRI SYED
SHAHABUDDIN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign delegates were granted Visas to attend the Indian National Congress (I)'s Session in Calcutta;

(b) if so, the number and nationality of the delegates;

(c) whether it is a fact that foreign delegates to the all India Conference of Student Federation of India were refused Visas;

(d) if so, the nationality of such delegates; and

(e) what are the reasons for denial of visas to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATA-SUBBAIAH): (a) and (b) According to information available, the Indian Embassy in Moscow granted, on application, visas to three Soviet nationals to attend the Conference at Calcutta of Indian National Congress (I). Two GDR nationals are also reported to have attended the Conference as observers-

(c) to (e) As per report of Indian Embassy in B'jirn?, the letter of invitation remrt'edly sent out by the Student Federation of India was couched in a

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gulam Mohi-ud-Din Shawl.