

Shipyard at Hazira. Site in Gujarat

392. SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :†

SHRI S. W. DHABE :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 205 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th March, 1976 and state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the preliminary project report received from foreign consultants regarding the establishment of a shipyard at Hazira in Gujarat;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the delay; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI) : (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is still under examination and a decision will be taken only thereafter.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, why is the honourable Minister awaiting the question ? (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : Sir, this is the type of reply that is being given to this House session after session. I joined this House in 1972 and since then not one session has gone by without any reference to this question about Hazira and the reply has always been the standard reply that a decision is yet to be taken. My submission is that the people of Gujarat and in the West coast areas are really at the end of their patience. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : I am putting my question, Sir. But you can also see that the other Members are also getting agitated on this issue.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Sumitra G. Kulkarni.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But you should not get agitated.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : But I also feel the same way, Sir.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, we are justified in getting agitated because the question has been asked eleven times and every time the same reply is given.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : My submission is that this question has been under their consideration for a very long time. Of course, there may be some difficulties in deciding about where it should be located and all that. But I do not know why such a long time they should take to decide this issue. After all, in the West coast, we have only Bombay which is completely clogged up. For want of port facilities in Bombay, we are not able to export things and earn foreign exchange which we need very much. We are also not able to unload foodgrains there. Only because of these factors this particular question is becoming very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But you are not putting your question. What is your question ?

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : Sir, kindly bear with me for a while because this question is hurting the feelings of all of us. The people in the West coast areas are not able to unload the foodgrains because Bombay Port is full and there are no berths there now for this. Therefore, I would like to know the reason why the Government is taking so much time. How is it that nearly four years have elapsed now and still the Government is not able to push one file ? Why is the hesitation ? Why has a decision with regard to this not been taken as yet ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : Sir, session after session we are getting the same reply and the people in the West coast are suffering. Further, once they take a decision, they will take another ten years to complete the project. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you not resuming your seat ?

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: Sir, I would like to know what his reply is. Let me put it boldly: What is the reason for not taking a decision on this for such a long time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Unless you resume your seat, the Minister cannot reply.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, the Minister is silent.

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: Sir, I am picking up courage now....

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: If you are in need of it, we are willing to lend you, because that is what is wanted now.... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: Sir, at the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan, there was a proposal for building two additional ship-building yards besides those which were already in existence, namely, Vishakhapatnam and Cochin which were already in the planning stage at that time. Now, there was first an investigation by a techno-economic working group of the Ministry for the selection of possible sites. The maritime State Governments in India proposed about 11 sites. The techno-economic group went round the sites and submitted a report, stating that there were four possible sites. This was a local techno-economic group. Then, the Government considered it necessary to get foreign technical consultants' advice, on the aspects of the location, costs, viability, etc. So, it was referred to foreign consultants. These reports have been received. But the mere receipt of foreign technical reports does not mean, by implication, approval of the project. We have to consider...

SHRI YOGINDRA MAKWANA: But.... (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot disturb like that. You will have to be careful.

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: Therefore, the answer is quite correct, in the sense that these reports are under consideration, and after they have been fully examined we will come to a decision.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: I must confess that this is a very cool reply. It is very refreshing to get cool replies

from the Minister, but it does not satisfy us completely. I want to ask, what is the use of giving this history about Cochin and Vizag. My question is, when this report was asked for? When was it received exactly—on what date? This is the crucial data. What steps has the Government taken in this regard? Who has examined this report? How long is it going to take? Why is there so much delay? This data is necessary, because it concerns industrial development on the west coast. It cannot be delayed. It is becoming something which is almost unbearable, and it is....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you arguing about it?

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: The Government has to appreciate, and...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. But this is Question Hour.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: I will abide by your Question Hour, but...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have put your supplementary.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: How can you.... (*Interruptions*). I want to impress upon the hon. Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: Please come to our rescue. We should get some answer which satisfies us.... (*Interruptions*).

DR. G. S. DHILLON: At least she should not expect a cool reply from me.... (*Interruptions*). I will be a very warm person.... (*Interruptions*). I only tell her, through you, Sir, that we are not against Hazira. It appears that there are certain doubts in her mind. Let the things go through the normal examination. Ultimately, something will come out which will not disappoint her.... (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: This is no reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: He has still not replied to my question.

When was the report received ? . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot have the monopoly.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : It is not the monopoly. When . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : What was the date on which . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat . . . (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GOLANDAZ MOHAMMEDHU-SAIN A. SAMAD : I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what is this preliminary project report ? Will this report be circulated to the members concerned for their study ? Further, I would like to know from you whether this report has been studied by the Minister. .

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI : This preliminary report is a report by foreign technical consultants, commissioned by the Government for its own information for judging the merits of the project. It has been studied.

SHRI GOLANDAZ MOHAMMEDHU-SAIN A. SAMAD : Was this circulated to the members concerned ? This was my question.

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI : Reports submitted to the Governments are not normally circulated.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : We have a right to put certain questions, through you, and we have a right to get the information, through you, Sir. The Minister is trying to evade the reply. He can not . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN . Put your supplementary.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : When was the report submitted ? Why is it held up ? People are agitated about this western coast in Gujarat. They are not giving a specific reply.

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI : The reports of the Foreign Technical Consultants were received between January and March, 1975.

SHRI HIMMAT SINH : I want a very specific reply from the hon. Minister. He has mentioned the background. He has his own problems and the question may be complicated. My question is simply this. Can he specify a date by which this question will be ultimately finalised ?

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI : Sir, this a very costly project. As I mentioned in my first reply to the hon. lady Member, the fact that we have received the report of the Foreign Technical Consultants does not necessarily imply approval of the project. The project has yet to be considered on its own merits. It involves considerable cost. Therefore, I am not in a position to indicate now the precise date by which a decision on this will be arrived at.

SHRI HARISINH BHAGUBAVA MAHIDA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that there is some trouble in taking a decision for the establishment of a shipyard on the east coast and so a decision in respect of Hazira is delayed.

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI : The local Techno Economic Group had suggested four possible sites. The Foreign Technical Consultants have also considered the merits and demerits of these four possible sites. The models which are to be constructed at one of the four sites have also been considered. There is no question of any difficulty on either coast. The point really is about the kind of model which can be constructed and which is the best site for it.

SHRI B. RACHAIAH : What are the other projects in the west coast ? Is the Government considering the question of taking up the construction of shipyards in the west coast ?

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI : Only two sites are under consideration on the west coast. One is Hazira in Gujarat and the other is Kurlvangani in Goa.

SHRI BHAIRAB CHANDRA MAHANTI : I would like to know whether the Government is going to have one or two or three or four shipyards.

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI : The original idea was to have two shipyards. But even that may undergo a change on the basis of consideration of this report.

श्री इब्राहीम कलानिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हजीरा बंदरगाह के निर्माण में जो देरी हो रही है उसके कारण गुजरात क्षेत्र के समुद्री व्यवसाय के विकास को हानि हो रही है, साथ ही इस विलम्ब से विदेशी कंसल्टेंट्स की जो कार्यकुशलता है उसके प्रति भी संदेह होने लग गया है। मेरा मतलब उनमें है जिन्होंने यह प्रोजेक्ट रिपोर्ट बनाई थी। उसकी रिपोर्ट एक साल चार माह से आई हुई है और दोनों सदनों में मंत्री महोदय आश्वासन दे रहे हैं कि ग्रैंडर कंसिडरेशन है। तो क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस बंदरगाह का निर्माण कब तक आरम्भ हो जाएगा ?

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI : Sir, the work can commence only after the project has been approved.

SHRI HARISINH BHAGUBAVA MAHIDA : Sir, the report was submitted to the Government in January, 1975. Nearly one year and four months have passed. I would like to know at what stage the consideration is going on.

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI : Inter-ministerial consultations are going on.

Running of special deluxe buses by D.T.C.

*393 SHRI KALP NATH RAI :

SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI :†

SHRI PIARE LALL KUREEL :

URF PIARE LALL TALIB :

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Transport Corporation propose to run special deluxe buses for commuters;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagdish Joshi.

(b) whether the scheme has been examined to find out its feasibility; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The DTC is considering a proposal to operate more comfortable buses on certain selected routes in the city. No decision has yet been taken.

श्री जगदीश जोशी : क्या मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि डीलक्स कोचेज चलाने की योजना किन-किन मार्गों पर है ? इस तरह की बसों को चलाने के पूर्व क्या डी०टी०सी० ने इस बात पर विचार कर लिया है कि देहातों के कई इलाकों में जहां कि उनकी बस सेवा अपूर्ण है—जैसे नजफगढ़ और नरेला का जो इलाका है वह अभी तक केन्द्रीय सचिवालय से बस द्वारा नहीं जोड़ा गया है, जिससे वहां के रहने वालों को दफ्तर आने और दूसरे काम करने के लिए बहुत परेशानी होती है ? जो हिस्से देहातों के हैं जो पिछड़े हुए हिस्से हैं, जिन्हें डी०टी०सी० अपनी असमर्थता के कारण बसों द्वारा नहीं जोड़ पा रही है, क्या इस तरह के क्षेत्रों को सुविधा प्रदान करने के बाद ही डीलक्स बसों को चलाने के बारे में सोचा जाएगा ?

श्री दलबीर सिंह : श्रीमन्, वह तो अभी प्रपोजल स्टेज में ही है और इस बात पर तो अभी विचार ही किया जा रहा है। डी०टी०सी० ऐसी एरियाज में जहां के लोगों की पेइंग कैपेसिटी ज्यादा है और जिन इलाकों में इस समय प्राइवेट मोटर वाले चाटर्ड बसें चला रहे हैं और जनता से ज्यादा पैसा वसूल कर रहे हैं, वहां पर इस तरह की बसें चलाने का विचार किया जा रहा है।