

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 16th December, 1970/ the
25th Agra-ayana, 1892 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

OPERATION HARD ROCK

718. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : SHRI
ARJUN ARORA : DR. SALIG
RAM : SHRI RAJENDRA
PRATAP SINHA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS
be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the achievement of the
Operation Hard Rock;

(b) whether Government have entered
into an agreement with a French firm for
aerial survey; and

(c) if so, what are the terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS
AND MINES AND METALS. (SHRI
NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) : (a) As a
result of the airborne regional survey conducted
under the project 'Operation Hard Rock' a
large number of geophysical anomalies have
been revealed. The ground follow up in
selected anomaly sites has already revealed
very promising zinc, lead mineralisation in
Rajasthan area and copper mineralisation in
Bihar area. Minor occurrences of
molybdenum have also been recorded in
Rajasthan area. Further drilling is in progress
to evaluate the extent and grade of the ore
bodies.

(b) and (c) A contract for conducting
airborne geophysical survey of certain parts
of the country has been signed by the
Government of India with a French
Government organisation viz. BRGM
(BUREAU DE RECHERCHES GEOLOGIQUES
ET MINIERES), Paris. Under this Contract,
the French organisation is expected to cover
selected areas of 80,000 sq. kms. in
Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and
Mysore.

The question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

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The project is estimated to cost FF
11,583,000, out of which the Govern-
ment of India will have to pay 9,802,650
in French currency and the balance
amount in equivalent rupees. 20% of
the total value of the project payable by
the Government of India in French
Franc shall be paid on coming into
force of the agreement after the receipt
of the Bank Guarantee. 75% of the total
value shall be paid in 13 instalments, 12
in quarterly instalments and the 13th
during the 39th month. 5% of the total
value shall be paid by Government of
India within 15 days after the receipt of
the Final Report. The duration of this
project is 38 months.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : The hon.
Minister has given details. It would have
been better if the statement had been laid on
the Table and we could have made out
something from it. May I know if it is not a
fact that the whole work as was entrusted—
Operation Hard Rock—has not been done
because they were to do the ground work and
drilling? When they are not doing the com-
plete work and when the information that
the hon. Minister has given was already known
to the Geological Survey of India and the
whole issue has been completely bungled by
the officials concerned, may I know whether
they are making full payment for the aerial sur-
vey and whether all the information that
has been collected by the aerial survey has
been passed on to the Geological Survey of
India or not?

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY :
All the information that we have received as
a result of this Operation Hard Rock has
been passed on to the AMSC Division of the
Geological Survey of India which has
organised the ground follow-up. That work
is going on. About the payment, the foreign
organisation which did Operation Hard
Rock was not required to do drilling; their
part was flying, and they have done it. And
for that, they have been paid.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Were they not
expected to do the ground work also? Sir,
he has given the terms. But may I know
what is the rate? Is it not a fact that for a
lesser rate even some Americans and people
from some other countries were prepared to
come? And you have paid them a higher rate.
And the Geological Survey of India is being
superseded. The Secretary of the Ministry is
the Chairman to coordinate the

work, of the French survey with the Geological Survey of India. In this way ; the whole bureaucracy is functioning. Is it not also a fact that the original seismographs which were taken by the Russians, they have themselves taken them away and we do not have any copies of them? And about the foreign planes which are flying, how far is it correct on the part of the Government of India to allow foreign planes to fly when Indian planes can do it and how can the foreigners take away the whole information?

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : The question, Sir, is in three or four parts. Now, about flying; there was no Russian company which came in; there was an American company.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I said about seismograph.

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : An American company came in and when they flew, our military officers were always in the plane. The mineral variations that were recorded were taken by them for interpretation and they have been returned to us; they have all come to us. So, the question of their retaining anything does not arise. Then about passing of information, I may inform the hon. Member that the entire flying is done with our officers, the camera that operates there remains with us; the films that are exposed by the camera remain with us; and nothing leaves the shores of the country.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: What about the rates?

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : For the air-borne survey, the payment was at the rate of Rs. 105 and odd per line kilometre. To the BRGM the rate is four rupees and a few annas more than this rate.

SHRI KRISHNA KANT : Why?

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : Because the instruments that are being used by the BRGM contain one additional instrument.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : But others were prepared to do it at a lower rate.

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : No. So far as I know, we did not get any offer from anybody to do it at a lower rate.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know how in this important survey the Americans came in when the contract was with the French? It appears that in anything that the Government of India does, the Americans must have a share and the CIA should get all the information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right; your question is clear.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : My question is: How and why did the Americans come in and why did the Government allow them to come in in a contract with a French firm?

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : Sir, there seems to be some confusion. The first contract was with the USAID and under the terms of the USAID, we had to give the work to an American firm. So it was done. The second contract is with a French company and no American company is coming in in the second contract.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: How many Americans were involved?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. This is another question; I cannot allow it Mr. Kalyan Roy.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Sir, I accuse the hon. Minister of going back on the assurances he gave. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please put your question.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Is it not a fact that Dr. Triguna Sen while presiding over a meeting of the Consultative Committee gave a categorical assurance to all the Members of Parliament in Neyveli that before the entire work of "Operation Hard Rock", which I would call "Operation Rot", is assessed and evaluated, the Secretary of the Mines Ministry will not proceed to Paris to sign this agreement which means more cost per kilometre? Following from that, is it not a fact that the Secretary of the Mines Ministry, Mr. Subramaniam, did not want to go to Paris because of the criticisms which he faced and Dr. Triguna Sen personally permitted him to go? Is it not a fact that a large number of sons and relatives of the officers of the Mines Ministry are employed in various firms which are getting contracts through "Operation Hard Rock"? Lastly, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough. Please sit down.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Is it not a fact that every term of the contract has been violated and not an ounce of ore has been found out?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Sir, Mr. Kal-yan Roy has referred to the proceedings of a meeting of the Consultative Committee in Neyeli over which I presided. It is a fact that I said that before the contract with the French firm is made, we would thoroughly study the pros and cons of it and only when we are satisfied that it is necessary, we will sign the contract. It is not correct to say that the sons and daughters of the officers of my Ministry are engaged in the whole Geological Survey of India. I have no statistics about it.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: They are employed in the United States.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : I do not know whether they are getting employed in the United States. He has combined two things. "Operation Hard Rock", as has been explained by my colleague, was formerly done through the USAID. This is a new thing for a new area for which we are entering into a contract with the French firm. These two things are quite different.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : How many ounces of ore has been found out? He has not answered that question.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: My colleague, Mr. Nitiraj Singh, in his reply to (a) has said that due to this 'Operation Hard Rock' survey the ground follow-up selected anomaly sites has already revealed very promising zinc, lead mineralisation in Rajasthan area and copper mineralisation in Bihar area. He has already said it.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: No, Sir. The point which he was asking and which I was asking was the same and the Minister has evaded answering it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Mr. Krishan Kant. No more on that.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: There was nothing new in that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No please.

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT : The honourable Minister has referred to an American firm. Was it a condition with the USAID that we should get the work done by a particular, specific, organisation? If not, why was the Philadelphia organisation chosen for this purpose?

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : The condition was that the work has to be entrusted to an American firm. Advertisements were put in and six persons applied. The quotation of this particular organisation was the lowest, and therefore, the work was entrusted to the Philadelphia organisation.

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT : Sir, the answer to my question has not come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Now Mr. Mathur please. This will be the last question.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : क्या हमारी सरकार अपने देश के ही भूगर्भ वैज्ञानिक को इतना योग्य नहीं समझती कि विदेशी कंपनियों से—अमरीकन हों या फ्रेंच हों या और हों—समझौता करके इस प्रकार से अपने देश में, चाहे तो विमान से, किसी प्रकार का सर्वे करें जिससे उनको हमारे देश के बारे में सूचनाएं मिलती हैं? जब कि अपने देश के वैज्ञानिकों को रोजगार का आवश्यकता है वह बकार हैं, तो क्या वह उचित नहीं समझती कि उनके साथ समझौते को कैन्सिल करे?

दूसरा प्रश्न : क्या जैसा आपने बताया कि राजस्थान में इस प्रकार की संभावनाएं हैं, तो क्या कोई वहां के लिए योजना बनाकर उसमें जितने बकार इंजीनियर हैं, उनको काम में लगायेंगे ताकि उनको रोजगार मिले और देश के साधन बढ़ें?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Sir, this is exactly one of the conditions with the French firm that in every aspect they will use the Indian technicians and scientists. As a matter of fact, we are reorganising the Geological Survey of India for this mapping and other things. And we have already created 1,105 gazetted and 6,135 non-gazetted posts to recruit scientists, engineers and technicians.

These Indians will be trained and they will be deployed to work out surveys and exploration throughout the whole country.

BHUTAN'S APPLICATION FOR U.N. MEMBERSHIP

719. SHRI ARJUN ARORA : f SHRI M.

H. SAMUEL :

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

DR. SALIG RAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government of India are supporting Bhutan's application for membership of the United Nations; and
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the House is aware, the Government of India had agreed to assist the Government of Bhutan when Bhutan expressed her readiness to assume the responsibilities and obligations of U. N. membership.

The Government of Bhutan, in the light of its own experience as a member of two multilateral organisations, namely, the Colombo Plan and the Universal Postal Union, have now indicated their wish to join the U. N. and have confirmed their willingness to fulfil the responsibilities and obligations of the U. N. Charter.

Consistent with the close and friendly relations between India and Bhutan and in keeping with the understanding given to Bhutan in this regard, the Government of India is supporting Bhutan's application for joining the U. N.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know what were the reasons for Bhutan government's dissatisfaction with the handling of their foreign affairs by the Government of India?

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Arjun Arora.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : As far as we are aware, Bhutan Government has never expressed any dissatisfaction.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Is it a fact that one representative or the other from Bhutan has, during the last few years, been included in the Indian delegation to the United Nations and, if so, what has been his performance?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I am not absolutely certain (f anybody from Bhutan has been included in our delegation. But this year a delegation from Bhutan did go to New York in order to make a sounding with all the members of the UN in regard to her membership of the United Nations.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know what is the present position on the whole issue—whether Bhutan has applied and whether the United Nations have considered? How is the Government of India going to safeguard our interests and see that our interests in Bhutan are not in any way hit by the multiplicity of the big powers functioning in Bhutan and by the pressure of China ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : The present position is, as I have said, a delegation from Bhutan went to New York this year and that delegation contacted all the delegations present in the United Nations General Assembly. They also discussed the matter with the members of the Security Council and in all those discussions our delegation and our permanent representative were fully associated. Our impression is that by and large, practically all the members of the U. N. are understood to be agreeable to Bhutan's entry into the United Nations. Therefore, we do not expect any difficulty. In regard to our own interests in Bhutan, hon. Members already know that we have a treaty of friendship with Bhutan signed in i 1949. This is a bilateral matter. Both ! countries have assured each other that i even after Bhutan's membership of the l U. N., both sides will continue to res-] pect the terms of the treaty. The treaty j does not detract from the sovereign | status of Bhutan which we respect.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : We value the special relationship with Bhutan. May I take it that the mutual, special obliga- | tions between India and Bhutan would | remain in tact in spite of Bhutan's mem-