

SHRI S. K. PATIL: There seems to be some misunderstanding that it is the sole responsibility of the Central Government. The Central Government comes in because we have got to help the State Governments in their difficulties to find a solution to the transport problem. Therefore, before we undertake this circular thing—of course, that is going to be there, there is no doubt about it—we have got to find out whether that alone is the complete answer or, along with that, also the underground has got to be undertaken. Therefore, that question has got to be gone into by some competent committee knowing transport and we must get its verdict?

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA: May I know whether the Railway Ministry is in a position to consider the extension of the Port Trust Railway for catering to the needs of the travelling public of Calcutta till the committee's report is out?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: That also will be part of the problem that would be considered, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It appears from the reply of the hon. Minister that the Government has accepted the plan for a circular railway for Calcutta. Do I understand it correctly and if so, why were these terms of reference made which do not make this position clear? In that case the terms of reference should be how quickly and how best this plan could materialise. Does the Government realise that Calcutta has specific problems because of development of townships around it and the influx of refugees and so on and that the present transport system cannot at all take the load of daily travellers there? Therefore why is not the Government expediting this matter in order that we can have a circular railway there which is within

the competence of this Government provided the finances are made available?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: The hon. Member's suggestion will be taken into consideration when we finally adopt the terms of reference.

पांचवां इस्पात कारखाना

- * 99. { श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :
श्री दत्तोपन्त ठेंगड़ी :
श्री टी० बी० आनन्दन् :
श्री गिरिराज किशोर कपूर :
श्री राम सिंह :
श्री वाई० ए० रेड्डी :
श्री उत्तम सिंह बुगल :
श्री पी० अब्दुल्लाह :
श्री जगत नारायण :
श्री बेल्ला रेड्डी :

क्या इस्पात तथा खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान मैसूर के मुख्य मंत्री द्वारा 6 जुलाई, 1965 को दिये गये इस वक्तव्य की ओर दिलाया गया है कि राज्य सरकार होसपेट में इस्पात के एक कारखाना स्थापित करने का काम आगे बढ़ा सकती है;

(ख) क्या पांचवां इस्पात कारखाना स्थापित करने के प्रस्ताव पर कोई निर्णय कर लिया गया है ; और

(ग) यदि हाँ तो उसका व्योरा क्या है ।

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

†[FIFTH STEEL PLANT

99. { SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:†
SHRI D. THENGARI:
SHRI T. V. ANANDAN:
SHRI G. K. KAPUR:
SHRI RAM SINGH:
SHRI Y. A. REDDY:
SHRI U. S. DUGAL:
SHRI P. ABRAHAM:
SHRI JAGAT NARAIN:
SHRI YELLA REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Chief Minister of Mysore on the 6th July, 1965 that the State might go ahead to set up a steel plant at Hospet;

(b) whether a decision has been taken with regard to the proposal for setting up the fifth steel plant; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?]

इस्पात तथा खान मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री पी० सी० सेठी) : (क) सरकार का ध्यान समाचार-पत्रों में छपे कुछ समाचारों की ओर दिलाया गया है जिन में यह कहा गया है कि मैसूर सरकार भारत सरकार की अनुमति से होस्पेट में एक इस्पात संयंत्र स्थापित करेगी।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Govern-

†[] English translation.

‡The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

ment's attention has been drawn to certain reports in the Press stating that the Mysore State might set up a steel plant at Hospet subject to the approval of the Government of India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, the people of Mysore have a feeling that their case for steel plant is going by default as they have no representative in the Central Cabinet. May, I know if the hon. Minister is in a position to assure that the claim of Mysore will be carefully and sympathetically considered?

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: On a point of order, Sir. The Cabinet is . . .

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Is he going to reply ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. He has risen on a point of order.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What is the point of order?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of order, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can I say that until he makes it?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I ask . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. He wants to raise a point of order.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What is that?

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: My point of order is this. My friend is not referring to the position correctly because it is the recommendation of the Committee and not of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is no point of order.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: Having a Minister in the Cabinet or not is not my concern; I cannot answer that part of the question. It is difficult for me but I can assure my friend that because of the absence of a Minister from Mysore State, Hospet's case will not suffer. I will certainly try to do justice to all the areas and place the case before the Cabinet before a final decision is taken.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: May I know whether it is a fact that the Dastur and Company previously recommended the Hospet area as the place suitable for setting up a steel plant and may I know what was the reason for setting up later on the Indo-American consortium to re-examine the whole question and is it not a fact that even that consortium has suggested that Hospet is ideal for this purpose except for the fact that the Andhra area has got better transport facilities? And I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that there has been considerable speculation going on in Andhra . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question, Mr. Gurupada Swamy?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: I have already put the question. I would like to know what was the necessity for setting up a consortium to re-examine the question when this had been previously examined by Dastur and Company which had suggested the Hospet area for this purpose.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: M/s. Dastur and Company recommended not only Hospet. When it examined the Salem-Neyveli area it equally strongly recommended Salem-Neyveli. When a technician is asked to report on a particular site, naturally, he reports about all the points that are favourable. Fortunately or unfortunately there are five or six sites. The Anglo-American consortium came into the picture because they have to finance the project wherever it is located. Therefore we asked them to look into it. M/s. Dastur and Company has re-

commended Hospet as very good, and the same M/s. Dastur and Company also recommended Salem-Neyveli as equally good. Whenever an expert examines a particular site, naturally he puts in the good points of that site. The exports are expected to go into all the details and give their report.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: May I know whether it is a fact that the consortium has recommended Vishakhapatnam for the location of the fifth steel plant and whether that report is under the consideration of the Cabinet and if so, when a decision is likely to be taken?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: Sir, the Report of the consortium will be placed in the Library. It is not a secret document. I would like to send copies of it to the Chief Ministers of the concerned States. Therefore my friend can read it. The consortium has recommended Vishakhapatnam because a deep water location would be advantageous. The arguments are all there which my friend will be able to see when I place the Report in the Library. I did not have sufficient copies; otherwise I would have placed it much earlier. Now that I have secured five to ten copies, I would like to place it in the Library tomorrow if I am permitted to do so, and my friend can read it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Is it not a fact that Vishakhapatnam has neither iron ore nor coal and that the iron ore content in Mysore is far better than in Vishakhapatnam? May I know what was the reason for selecting Vishakhapatnam instead of Mysore?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: I am not a technical man. As I said, I can only place the Report in the Library and my friends can read it.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Sir, the day on which the talk of the fifth plant started should have been a day of bad

omen and that is why all over the country it has created a problem. In order to keep the country in peace, may I ask the hon. Minister whether he would consider simultaneous installation of the fifth, sixth and seventh steel plants so that trouble will not be there?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: Only financing will be the problem; otherwise I would like to set up not only the fifth, sixth and seventh but the eighth, ninth and tenth also.

SHRI RAM SINGH: How long will the Government take to decide where the fifth plant will be located?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: The departmental Secretaries are examining the Report and after that it will go before the Cabinet. I think, according to the terms of the contract with the Anglo-American consortium, within two months of the submission of their Report we will have to give them a decision. So within the coming one month the Government will take a decision and before that it will go to the Cabinet.

श्री जगत नारायण : क्या वजीर साहब बतलायेंगे कि उनके ख्याल में पंजाब की भी कभी बार आ सकती है कि वहाँ स्टील प्लांट बनाया जाय ? वहाँ बहुत स्किल्ड लेबर है और इन्डस्ट्री काफी एडवान्स है ।

श्री श्री० श्री० सेठी : पंजाब में आईरन ओर कम है, लेकिन पिग आईरन प्लांट लगाने की इजाजत दी जा सकती है ।

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know whether the Government are in a position to assure this House that in the initial stages of development of the Indian economy they shall be guided in such matters only by expert opinion, by considerations of finance, efficiency and economy of the plant that is going to be set up and shall not yield to regional clamour?

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SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: Not only in the initial stages but in the later stages also that should be the consideration.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The hon. Minister stated just now that the Anglo-American consortium has to find the money for this project. According to the Report of the consortium, the objection to Hospet has been purely on the ground of capital costs. According to this consortium, a plant at Hospet will cost Rs. 25 crores while at Vishakhapatnam it will cost Rs. 14 crores. May I ask the hon. Minister whether the Anglo-American consortium has made it clear to the Government that they would not be interested in the project, if it is located anywhere else besides Vishakhapatnam or whether they are prepared to abide by the decision of the Government in regard to the capital costs?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: May I request the hon. Member to await the Report which I will be placing in the Library? After reading the whole Report, naturally, my friend would be able to form his own opinion. I do not think I should begin commenting on the Report because he is asking me the reasons that prompted them to recommend this or that. So instead of my commenting on that Report, I shall place the whole Report in the Library. The Report may satisfy him and if not, he may later on ask questions.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Has the Anglo-American consortium made a firm commitment about financing the project?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: No, Sir. Not yet.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, in reply to every question the hon. Minister is referring us to a document which has not yet been placed in the Library. Since the hon. Minister has read it himself, why does he not give even elementary answers to elementary questions?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: My difficulty is, they ask questions on technical matters and I may give them wrong information. So it is better to wait for a day more and get correct information rather than my giving wrong information. I do not think within one day anything is going to happen. The Government is not going to take any decision on this issue tomorrow or the day after.

STATE TRADING CORPORATION

*100. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of further increasing the role of the State Trading Corporation in the country's external trade has been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b). It is continuously increasing. The functions of the Corporation, now bifurcated into two, as approved by Government and which have been publicly stated repeatedly, are as per the functions enumerated in the attached statement which is being laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The functions of the State Trading Corporation are as under:—

- (a) To undertake trading generally with State Trading Countries as well as other countries in commodities entrusted to it;
- (b) to explore larger markets for traditional items of exports and to develop exports of new items with a view to diversifying and expanding the export trade;
- (c) to undertake at the instance of Government import/or internal distribution of any commodity in short supply with a view to stabilising prices and rationalising distribution;

(d) to undertake canalisation of imports and exports of items as may be directed by Government from time to time;

(e) generally to implement such special arrangements viz. barter, commodity exchange etc. for import, export and/or internal distribution of particular group of commodities as Government may adopt in the public interest;

(f) buffer stock operations and price support measures for internal economy.

श्री विमलकुमार मधालालजी चौरडिया :

क्या श्रीमान् यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि वे कौन कौन से आईटम्स हैं जिनमें स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन सौ फीसदी के करीब मुनाफ़ा लेती है और अगर लेती है तो उपभोक्ताओं के नुकसान को रोकने की दृष्टि से क्या विचार है।

श्री मनुभाई शाह: यह सवाल तो इसमें से पैदा नहीं होता लेकिन फिर भी ऐसा है कि कोई आईटमवाइज तो प्राफिट नहीं दिया जाता। जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने बताया था कि एक लौंग और एक बेंटिल-नट का जो व्यापार है उसमें एस० टी० सी० जो मुनाफ़ा लैंडेड कास्ट और बाजार के भाव में है उसमें से काफी हिस्सा लेती है।

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Is it a fact that most of the Government undertakings do not like to trade through the STC, unless they are forced to do so?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The very fact that trade has expanded from Rs. 9 crores in 1956-57 to Rs. 153 crores last year and this year it will be Rs. 175 crores—in iron ore, manganese ore, some tea, fruit juices, and in some cases engineering goods. There are more than 120 items—in both imports and exports. Shows that both the Government departments and the private trade are fully co-operating with the Corporation.