

soundness which is important; the other questions like navigational facilities, instrumental landing facilities, training of the staff facilities, maintenance staff facilities, engineering staff facilities, so many related questions are equally important, if the aircrafts are to be operated safely. I have said earlier that it has been mentioned about it in the Interim Report of the Ramdas Committee which has been submitted to the Government. There cannot be a more harsh stricture than saying that the rate of induction of the aircraft was too rapid for the Indian Airlines to assimilate and prepare themselves for safe operation of this aircraft. All these questions have to be addressed to. Doubts have to be removed. The Government has taken a decision that till the report of the court of enquiry comes, the Indian Airlines will not operate this aircraft. It has to establish the cause of the accident; whether it was because of human error or whether it was because of some major design defect; whatever it is. I am not going to speculate about that.

About the losses which are suffered by the Indian Airlines—the hon. member Shri Vasant Sathe has asked about them—about Rs. 2 1/2 crores are being lost per week. This loss is accruing to the Indian Airlines because of the grounding of this fleet.

MR. SPEAKER: I think we should not discuss it any more because I have already admitted a motion on it under Rule 198. The BAC will decide about the time for its discussion tomorrow. Next question.

#### Haldia Petrochemical Project

\*822. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Haldia Petrochemical Project has been finally cleared in all respects; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). Earlier, a letter of intent for setting up a petrochemical complex at Haldia with a capacity of 100,000 tonnes/year ethylene was issued in November, 1977.

Recently, in February, 1990, the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. has applied for a fresh letter of intent for petrochemical complex with a capacity of 300,000 tonnes/year ethylene at Haldia conforming to the minimum economic sizes prescribed for such projects. The application is under process.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I think the Government of India is aware that the West Bengal Government's concept of the project is both naphtha cracker and eight down stream projects together. It is not separate. Does the Government of India agree with the concept of the project of the West Bengal Government as projected by them? In this connection, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government of India that the desire of the West Bengal Government is to see that the Integrated Petrochemical Complex Project should be made a part of the Annual Plan of 1990-91. And may I know from the Government, at this stage, what are the remaining stages yet to be completed before the fulfilment of that specific objective as placed by the Government of West Bengal? Would the hon. Minister kindly enumerate those stages?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: If it is a long list he can give it later.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Yes, it is a long list he can give it later.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, the first part of the question is about the products which are going to be taken up in Haldia. I have got a long list but the total number of items of manufacture involved in the Haldia project is eleven. If the hon. Member wants I can give the entire list to him.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The hon. members who are standing may take their seats.

**SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY:** We are approving all the products-mix the entire product-mix—sent by the West Bengal Government.

The second question is, whether this project is going to be included in the Annual Plan for 1990-91. So far as my Ministry is concerned, we have given the clearance and this is in a joint sector and the Government of West Bengal or the Industrial Development Corporation of West Bengal in collaboration with Tata Steel and Associates can take up this matter we do not come in the way and it can be included by West Bengal Government in this year's plan itself.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** I would only appreciate the statement made by the hon. Minister; but I would also urge upon the Government to assure the House that there will not be further delay because this delay has caused an escalation in the estimated cost of the project. You would be very much enlightened or educated to know...

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:** ...interested...

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:**...interested to know that the original estimated cost, in 1980 was Rs. 428 crores, it has escalated to Rs. 1470 crores and it is estimated to cost Rs. 3000 crores. Therefore, any I seek an assurance from the hon. Minister that there will not be any further delay in completely clearing the project in order to avoid avoidable escalation of the cost of the project?

**SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY:** Sir, so far as my Minister is concerned, let there not be any apprehension about delay. I am for expediting the project. May I just draw the attention of the House to the fact that the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited has submitted an application for a fresh letter of intent for setting up a three-lakh tonne capacity of ethylene on

February 15, 1990? And then, subsequently again, they have written a letter to the Ministry on March 26, that is two months back, on March 26, 1990 informing us that on further consideration the proposal to set up Polyethylene unit as an extension or another unit did not appear feasible and therefore the letter of intent for it may also be issued for domestic market. We cleared this also and the matter was considered by the Plan Projects Approval Board on 21.3.1990 and later on, on 25.4.1990 the proposal was sent to the C.E.A. for consideration. So far as this Ministry is concerned, we are taking all steps to see that this project is through, as early as possible.

**SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must not only appreciate, but also congratulate our Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals for having announced today that he has cleared the 3000 crore Petro-Chemical Complex for West Bengal. It is a very good thing. I would like to know whether such petro chemical projects are there anywhere in India in other ports. Particularly, in Paradip port, there is a proposal for petro-chemical complex. I would like to know at what stage it is lying. The proposal is already ripe for 3000 KMs long pipeline from Paradip port to Allahabad to pump diesel, petrol and other well oils. I would like to know at what stage that proposal also is lying.

**SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY:** Do you want me to answer this question?..(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** It is upto you. If you want to reply voluntarily then reply to it.

**SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY:** Let me answer it. I have no objection. There is a proposal to set up a refinery, a six million tonne refinery at Paradip. This is being considered. Sir, you are also interested in it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am interested in it. I have also interest in West Bengal.

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:** Why not Assam?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Assam too.

**SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY:** Sir, this project is to serve the entire eastern region. We have not gone through this project fully. I think, by taking the House into confidence, we are taking both the Eighth Plan and the Ninth Plan into consideration and Paradip is very much in our consideration and in our view. Perhaps if all goes well, Paradip project will come through in the Ninth Plan. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Dr. Biplab Dasgupta.

**SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU:** Sir, I had asked about 3000 KMs long pipeline from Paradip to Allahabad..(*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have already called Dr. Biplab Dasgupta

(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY.** Let him give a proposal

**DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA:** I would like to have a confirmation from the Minister that petro-chemical plant would require about four years to be installed and then it will take another three or four years before the other secondary activities connected with the petro-chemical plant would come into stream. In effect, it will take about 8 or 9 years before the full impact of this petro-chemical plant is felt by the eastern region including West Bengal. Sir, we have already wasted thirteen years because of the policy of the discrimination practised by the previous Government. This discrimination had penalised the people of the eastern region. The reason why I am asking this question is this. Had we not wasted those thirteen years, by now the whole eastern region would have been full of industries? For that reason, any further delay would be very damaging for the eastern region. So, I would like to have an assurance from you that at least within the coming year it will be possible to commission the work of the plant so that all the formalities are taken care of. Until now, we have had so many

assurances from the previous Government. I want a categorical word from the Minister...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** So long as Marxists Government is there, it would not be taken up...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** They are feeling uneasy because of guilty complex...(*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Let us hear the Minister.

**SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY:** I know that many hon. Members are interested in this question..(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** They are disinterested also...(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY:** I agree with my friend that this project is very capital intensive. It will take a long time and it will take at least one year for pre-project preparation itself. For completing the project, the minimum time required is four years. So in all, five years are required. Take it from me, we are committed to this project. We are extending all assistance to the West Bengal Government in this matter to see that the Haldia project comes through.

**SHRI L.V. SINGH:** I seek your indulgence to ascertain whether Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation filed an application in September 1985 for a petro-chemical complex at Barauni with benzene, para-xylene, orthoxylene etc. as product-mix. Whether or not a pre-investment feasibility report was demanded from the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehra Dun, who recommended for a limited xylene-PTA plant for Barauni. This was also communicated to the Government in 1987. I would be grateful to know from the hon. Minister the stage of this proposal.

**SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY:** Again this will not arise out of the main question. Anyway, I will try to answer it. A proposal has

been sent for launching a petorochemical project in Barauni. But we have already informed the Bihar Government that one aromatic\* plant and one caprolactam plant have been sanctioned. We have asked the Bihar Government to take steps to implement these projects. Both the projects put together, we require nearly 600 and odd crores of rupees. And so far no effective step has been taken by the Bihar Government in this matter what to talk of the other project. So there is no use in sending the proposal to us. But the State Governments should know their own competence and they should perform. Therefore, my appeal to the hon. Member is, if he has got any influence on the Bihar Government, to impress upon the Bihar Government to take steps to see that these projects already sanctioned are taken up.

#### Conversion of Achalpur-Yavatmal and Pulgaon-Arvi Rail Lines

\*824. SHR UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to discontinue the narrow-gauge line connecting Achalpur-Yavatmal and Pulgaon-Arvi;

(b) whether representations have been received to convert the above line into broad gauge line to promote the economic development of the region; and

(c) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As it is a privately owned railway worked by Central Railway, it is difficult to consider its conversion before taking over its ownership. The next option for taking over would be available in 1996 as per Agreement

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Honkong is being transferred to China in 1997 but the talks are going on. When we are managing this line, why should it be difficult for us to plan for conversion of it? We do not want you start the work right now. But you can definitely tell us that you will take up the conversion so that you can start the work under some scheme. The length of this line is 225 Kms. So it is going to take a long time. So why do you not decide it right now?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: There is no proposal to disband it nor is there any proposal to convert it. I do not know what exactly the hon. Member wants me to do now.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: I want to know why it should be difficult for the hon. Minister to give us an assurance that after 1996 the work will be taken up for conversion. On the other hand, your Home Ministry has given a statutory board for the backward areas of Marathwada, Konkan and Vidharbha. Under these circumstances, why do you not consider it and give us an assurance?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I said that there is no proposal to convert it. Then how can I give an assurance?

11.39 1/2 hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO  
A SUPPLEMENTARY ON SQ. NO. 822  
DATED 15.5.90

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): I made a slight mistake in my answer to the supplementary\*\* question put by Shri L.V. Singh. I said that aromatic project was cleared by my Ministry for Bihar. It is not aromatic—that has been rejected. It is polyester filament yarn project.

\* See column 16 also for correcting statement.

\*\* Please see column 15