

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Monday, June 30, 1980/Asadha 9, 1902
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Fishing Potential of Wadge Bank

*305. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware
of the necessity to exploit fishing
potential of the Wadge Bank;

(b) whether the Wadge Bank is
within the limits of India's territorial
waters, and

(c) whether the fisheries of the
said bank are now being exploited
by foreign interests with or without
Government's permission?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI
BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The territorial waters extend
up to 12 nautical miles. Under the
recent law of the Seas, India's oceanic
sovereignty in her Exclusive Economic
Zone extends up to 200 miles. The
Wadge Bank lies wholly within India's
Exclusive Economic Zone.

(c) No, Sir.

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SHRI K. A. RAJAN: The sorry
state of affairs prevailing in our
country is that our country could not
exploit the Wadge Bank, which
has immense resources in fish. It is
estimated that yearly, we are incurr-
ing a loss of Rs. 40 crores or Rs. 50
crores worth of fish, because of poach-
ing. The real reasons behind all these
things are these: with regard to deep
sea products, the estimated strength
of our fleet is only 70—nearly. If we
compare it with other countries, we
know that Japan possesses 15,000
trawlers, Taiwan has got 7,000
trawlers and Mexico 4,000 trawlers.
It was reported widely in all the
papers during last year that Taiwan
was encroaching upon and exploiting
the fish because of the sophisticated
and well-equipped trawlers at its
command. But the unfortunate state
of affairs in our country is that we are
unable to tap the Wadge Bank as it is,
because of lack of enough equipped
trawlers.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rajan, please
make it short, the supplementary
should be short.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Is the hon.
Minister thinking of putting in more
equipped trawlers and seeing to it that
our resources are not frittered away?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:
The Act for Exclusive Economic Zone
came into force in 1977. It is an Act
of 1976. And we entered into an
agreement with Sri Lanka for fishing
in the Wadge Bank area for 3 years.
That agreement has ended in January
this year. After that it is all our
responsibility to increase the number
of trawlers there. We are trying to
get more. We are also conducting a

detailed survey of the whole area. About 50 per cent of the area has been properly surveyed; and we shall see that all our fish potential is fully utilized by our own country. We have not extend the agreement with Sri Lanka.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would take any concrete measures regarding this poaching. It is reported, as I said, that certain countries are interfering in this bank, catching away the whole fish. What concrete steps have been taken to prevent this poaching?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Our coast guards are taking effective steps to apprehend any poachers. A few Taiwanese trawlers were caught on 2 or 3 occasions. They were taken to the harbour; and whatever action could be taken against them, was taken, and they were released after a severe warning was administered to them. The coastal guards are always on guard to stop poaching.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Any scheme for exploiting the marine wealth here will benefit the fishermen in Ponnani, Chowghat, Tirur and Tanur and other areas which are extremely backward. Therefore, I have to ask the Government whether the development of these resources, and fishing potentials here will get some priority treatment from the Government? Further, the Government has clarified that they are aware of the need for the development of these potentialities. I would also like the Government to explain what measures they have thought of apart from these trawlers. In the case of the trawlers and deep fishing, and mechanised trawlers, modern fishing trawlers fitted with electronics and refrigeration facilities and all that, care has to be taken in order to see that the interest of this very poor backward fishermen is not jeopardised. Will such a care be properly taken? Is there any scheme with the Government for even

the development of Ponnani fishing harbour with cold storage facilities? Let the Government explain the measures that are being thought of for the maximum exploitation of the potentialities and whether priority treatment will be given in view of the very backward nature of this place.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: For deep sea fishing we already have 78 trawlers on our seas. But in the coastal areas we are encouraging fishermen's co-operative societies to enable them to earn their living by better means of fishing. We are also thinking of supplying them with trawlers, loans and other facilities. In the next few years we want to increase the number of mechanised boats beyond 15,000. We are also increasing the number of trawlers beyond 300 by 1985. A very large number of mechanised boats privately owned by fishermen in the coastal areas are doing this work and we have all intention of giving them full encouragement.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that on the entire coastal area there is a constant conflict between those who are resorting to mechanised fishing and those who are resorting to non-mechanised fishing essentially small fishermen. If you decide to increase the number of trawlers on a very large scale, are you aware of the fact that it will be to the detriment of the small fishermen who are resorting to fishing in a non-mechanised way? With all your desire, anxiety and enthusiasm to have more trawlers, will you protect the interests of the small fishermen?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: We are fully aware of their needs. We are protecting the interests of the local fishermen. Government is thinking of demarcating certain areas exclusively for small boats and for mechanised boats. So far as rivalry between mechanised boats fishermen and other boats, country craft, is concerned, I do not think we can do anything very effectively. The hon. Member would agree if

trawlers go far out in the sea, the non-mechanised boats also go a little away from the coastal areas.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Please permit me a small intervention.

Though you have done that, there is no patrolling police to see that these restrictions are observed and as a result the small fishermen are suffering. Will you station patrolling boats so that the buidelines that you have given, they may be rigorously implemented.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Government is also thinking of expanding coast guard force and the patrolling by police to enforce our rules.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: There is a constant conflict between mechanised boat-owners and fishermen in coastal area are fully aware of the problem and we have made many representations to ameliorate and redress the grivances of the poor fishermen. There is one integrated fisheries project at Cochin imparting valuable training to many people of that area. I have made many representations for the improvement of that project so that the people of the coastal areas could be benefited. May I know what are the steps taken by the Minister to improve that project in particular, so as to reduce the conflict between the poor fishermen and the mechanised boat-owners?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I have already replied to that question which was put by Prof. Dandavate.

पटपड़गंज, दिल्ली में दुकान-ब-कार्यालय
काम्प्लेक्स

* 306. श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा . क्या निर्माण और
आवास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यमुनापार क्षेत्र, विशेषकर पटपड़-
गंज क्षेत्र, दिल्ली में दुकान-ब-कार्यालय काम्प्लेक्स
के निर्माण का कोई प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन है ;
और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में निर्णय कब
तक लिया जायेगा ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUS-
ING (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN
ARIF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The DDA has intimated that no
firm date can be given at this stage.

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : यमुना पार क्षेत्र में
पटपड़गंज क्षेत्र जैसी घनी आबादी वाली कितनी
बस्तियां हैं ? क्या आसन विचार कर रहा है
कि इन सभी बस्तियां में काम्प्लेक्स आदि की
सुविधाएं दी जाएं ?

निर्माण और आवास मंत्री (श्री पी० ली० सेठी) :
सब से बड़ी बस्ती जो है वह सब सेंट्रल
बिजिनेस डिस्ट्रिक्ट गवर्नमेंट आफिस और इन्स्टी-
ट्यूशनल काम्प्लेक्स है जो करीब 100 हेक्टर का
है । दूसरे पटपड़गंज रोड का उलकमीनगर डिस्ट्रिक्ट
सेक्टर कहलाता है । यह करीब 13.5 हेक्टर का
है । लोनी रोड डिस्ट्रिक्ट सेक्टर है जो करीब 20
हेक्टर का है । चार कम्युनिटी सेंटर का प्रमोवल
है और लोकल कन्वीनियेंट शापिंग सेंटर भी
बनाने का विचार है ।

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : जब जब भी ऐसी गन्वी
बस्तियों में इस प्रकार के काम्प्लेक्स या अन्य प्रकार
के निर्माण कार्य होते हैं तो वहां रहने वाले
व्यक्तियों को प्राथमिकता न दे कर उन दुकानों को
नीलाम किया जाता है । ऐसी जो पिछड़ी बस्तियां
हैं जहां पर दुकानें या काम्प्लेक्स या कार्यालय बगैर
आप बना रहे हैं क्या वहां पर जो पहले से ही
दुकानदार हैं, उनको प्राथमिकता देंगे ? साथ ही
जो हरिजन, आदिवासी और पिछड़े वर्ग के लोग
हैं उनको भी प्राथमिकता के आधार पर दुकानें
देने का आप विचार कर रहे हैं ?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि यमुना पार
क्षेत्र में कुल कितनी अनधिकृत बस्तियां हैं और
उनको कब तक अधिकृत करने का सरकार विचार
कर रही है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : दूसरा प्रश्न इस प्रश्न से
पैदा नहीं होता है ।

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : आप प्रश्न को देख लें ।
पैदा होता है ।

श्री पी० ली० सेठी : दुकान बेचने का तात्पर्य
यह होता है और नीलामी करने का तात्पर्य यह
होता है कि डिवेलेपमेंट करने में गवर्नमेंट का
बहुत कास्ट लगता है । दिल्ली की पैरीफरी
में इस समय इस प्रकार की आबादी बहुत और