

Foreign Investors in Power Sector

856. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the proposals for foreign investment in the field of power generation so far approved by the Government;

(b) the terms and conditions which have been agreed to by the Government;

(c) the names of the Indian collaborators, if any; and

(d) the time schedule for the commencement of generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) As on date, 12 power projects have been cleared from foreign investment angle. The details are given in the *Statement* attached.

(b) The clearance from foreign investment angle is to enable the foreign investors to pursue the various statutory and non-statutory clearances required for their power projects.

(c) Given in the *Statement* attached.

(d) The like commissioning of these projects would be known after the attainment of the financial closure by the respective generating companies.

STATEMENT

List of Power Projects Cleared from Foreign Investment Angle

Sl. No.	Name of the project/ State	Foreign Promoters	Indian Promoters	Prov. Cost (Rs. CRs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Godavari GBPP/AP (208 MW)	Spectrum Tech.USA	Bambino Group, NTPC	772.87
2.	Jegurupadu GBPP/AP (235 MW)	GVK, USA	APSEB	873.00
3.	Dabhol TPS/MAH. (2015 MW)	Enron, Bechtel	—	9052.00
4.	Zero Unit NLC/TN (250 MW)	ST Power, CMS Gen. USA	NLC. Govt. of TN	1325.11
5.	Ib Valley/ORISS (420 MW)	AES Trans Power USA	Govt of Orissa	1993.63
6.	Mangalore TPS/KAR. (1000 MW)	Cogentrix USA	—	5088.00
7.	Visakhapatnam TPS/AP (1000 MW)	National Power. UK	Ashok Leyland	5817.60
8.	Paguthan GBPP/GUj. (655 MW)	Siemens Germany	GTEC	2298.14
9.	Bhadravati IPS/MAH. (1000 MW)	ECGD. UK EDF, France	Ispat Alloys	5235.00
10.	Hospet TPS/KAR. (240 MW)	Tractebel SA of Belgium	Jindal Org.	942.00
11.	Sagarighi TPS/W Bengal (1000 MW)	CMS Gen. Kuljian corp. USA	WBPDC Dev. Consultats Ltd.	5120.00
12.	Bakreshwar TPS/W Bengal (420 MW)	CMS Gen. Kuljian corp. USA.	WBPDC Dev. Consultats Ltd.	1920.00

12.00 hrs.
[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you kindly allow me, I would like to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what you want to speak. That is why it is difficult to give you permission.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): That is what he wanted to tell you.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is correct, Sir.. (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker; Sir, I would like to submit about the sugar scandal... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think we will take it up a little later. I have other points also. I think they are also agreeing to make some statement and all those things.

Now, Shri Ram Naik on agitation by 75 lakhs fishermen and after that I would like to allow Shri Anna on incident of running of Bombay bound Indrayani Express.

12.01 hrs.

RE: AGITATION BY FISHERMEN AGAINST LICENCE GIVEN FOR DEEP SEA FISHING TO MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 75 lakh fishermen of the coastal States like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are facing a very serious problem. The fishermen all over the country are resorting to agitations against issue of licences to foreign multinational companies for deep-sea fishing. On 4th February, they observed a country-wise 'no-fishing day' and again on 4th March, held a big demonstration in front of the Parliament House. On 4th and 8th March, they even met the Hon'ble Prime Minister in this regard but to no avail. They again observed 'No fishing day' on 23rd and 24th November.

Sir, the developed countries like Japan, USA etc. have also imposed ban on deep sea fishing in their respective, maritime zone. On the other hand, our Government, instead of protecting the fishing beds or marine resources, is issuing them licences on a large scale. As a result, marine technology has been greatly affected and small fishermen have lost the hope of getting fishes in the sea. This will render about 75 fishermen jobless.

I would also like to submit that these multinational companies are being allowed to go in for hundred per

cent export of fishes. Due to this, about 30 crore fish consuming population of the country is not able to get fishes. Further, it has resulted in increase in the prices of fishes.

I would request the Government to review its policy pertaining to deep-sea fishing. My another demand is that the present practice of issuing licences should be done away with. My third demand is that no new licences should be issued. This agitation of fishermen is not influenced by any political party. It is being launched by the National Fisheries Forum. The Government should hold talks with them. I would like the Hon'ble Prime Minister to come out with a statement in this House on this issue at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, last week I sought the permission of the Chair to raise this matter. I fully support the hon. Member's statement. All traditional fishermen in the coastal belts are seriously affected. The licences to MNCs should be cancelled. No new licences should be given. Two days back, I met the hon. Minister for Food Processing, Shri Tarun Gogoi and made a representation and requested the Minister to make a statement in the House. This is a very serious situation affecting the life of 75 lakh people. So, I support that. We want a statement. All licences should be cancelled.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, in this regard I want a statement from the Government.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Sir, this is a very serious matter. Lakhs and lakhs of fishermen are involved in this. The Government must reconsider its stand. If licences have already been given to the multi-nationals, it should be cancelled in the interest of the fishermen of our country in general and Tamil Nadu in particular.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, it is a very vital subject. This affects lakhs and lakhs of people in the country and our fish wealth is also being destroyed. Lakhs of people are losing employment and the entire coastal belt is actually worried and violent reactions will be there from the public. No other country is allowing to catch and process the fish there itself. This should be banned immediately. Immediate steps should be taken. (interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Naik has raised a very serious issue in this House. Earlier, a demand was also made to this effect that the licences given to the foreign companies for deep sea fishing should be cancelled with immediate effect. Today, lakhs of fishermen have been rendered jobless and they are on the verge of starvation. The Government should act on this demand and cancel the licences immediately. Further, the Hon'ble Minister should also give a statement in the House about the steps the Government propose to take in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur): Sir, I fully support and endorse the views expressed by Shri Ram Naik.

Foreign companies are allowed to ruthlessly exploit the economic wealth of our country. This is very dangerous. They are processing the fish and taking it away. They are not paying any tax. The Government is not benefited in any way. Lakhs and lakhs of our traditional fishermen are facing severe crisis. I wish the Government cancels all the licences issued forthwith. I also want the Government to come before the Parliament with a statement. No new licence should be given and licences given for this kind of foreign vessels should be cancelled forthwith. I want the Government to come before this House with a statement for a policy change.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Ram Naik has raised an important question. This is not a question of just a few individuals but the question of the whole community who has been basing their livelihood for centuries on this profession. It is very unfortunate that in the hope of bringing El Dorado, sometimes the Government have been pursuing a suicidal policy. I do not know when it will be awakened though people are awakening them by their own deeds. Why should the people who have been depending, especially the poor fishermen be made victim of these multinationals? I do not understand whether any high technology is involved or something which is so important that multinationals should have been invited. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is an important issue because the people get totally frustrated. I do not know what is going to happen to this polity and to this nation.

I hope and trust that you will persuade the Government to make a statement as to what was the compulsion to allow multi-nationals in the field of fisheries. Was it not possible for our fishermen to cope with the problem? Is it only just that we want some foreign exchange or dollars? Are these dollars going to save the society from the tension which is mouting everyday?

Just now, my friend Sukh Ramji was speaking about high technology in communication, so in every field. Here is another friend, the Energy Minister, who is guaranteeing 16.5 per cent profit to the multi-nationals in order to generate power in this country. It seems that we have gone berserk totally. The Government of India has neither any vision nor any programme. Just they have got a slogan, the slogan which was given by the multi-nationals, the World Bank and the IMF and they are pursuing all those policies telling that they had the support of the whole people of the nation. There is a national consensus and the national consensus has been exhibited just yesterday. I do not know how long this national consensus will allow them to take this suicidal policy.

It is a matter which is very serious, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and what Shri Ram Naik has done in a great service. It is not the question of depending upon ourselves but the God's sake, give sense to this Government that they do not commit suicide themselves and do not make the whole national to commit *Harakiri* I hope that people will resist and I congratulate Shri Ram Naik for raising this issue....(Interruptions)

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, it is one and the same voice for the

entire Indian fishermen. 90 per cent of the catch is available only in the 10 per cent of the area near our shore. That has been exploited by the foreigners and our poor fishermen are not able to compete with the multi-nationals.

It is something like selling our sea to the foreigners. Therefore, their licences, already given, should be cancelled immediately and no further licences should be given. The Government must come forward to save our Indian fishermen.

Even in my constituency, thousands of fishermen have gone on hunger strike. Therefore, this is a serious matter and the Government must come forward to save Indian fishermen immediately....(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you ask these Ministers to learn manners. If I speak something and if they have something to say, they should get up and tell the people....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): Sir, I have said that I am not guaranteeing anything to multi-nationals, that is all....(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: No you get up and say that I am telling untruth....(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this browbeating from the Minister. I am not going to take....(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: If that is how Shri Chandra Shekhar understood, I apologise. It never was my intention. All that I stated was that I am not guaranteeing any return. That is all. (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not indulge in personal acrimony. I have personal differences on this policy matter. Mr. Minister should not go on challenging everybody, "you are not telling the truth, you are not telling the facts." I do not say a word of which I am not convinced and I tell Shri Salve to know his limits and be within that limit. (Interruptions)

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I was within my limits when I said that I was not guaranteeing any return. I had absolutely no intention; I never said that he was not telling the truth. I have respect for him because he is the erstwhile Prime Minister of this country and he is a senior parliamentarian. No personal affront was made across. I have merely said that I have not promised any return to any multi-national or to anybody. I am sorry that he should have misunderstood....(Interruptions) I am very sorry, Sir,....(Interruptions) Let there be a debate some day. I am not on that question....(Interruptions) I am only wanting to give explanation....(Interruptions) Since an esteemed Member of the House is offended by an innocuous remark which I made across the Table, I apologise to him. All that I said is that I have not guaranteed any return to any multi-nationals or to anybody. (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry, again the hon. Minister is giving a misstatement. I do not talk across the Table. He said that he was getting up and making a statement. Only then I said, "get up and make a statement that I am saying something wrong. (Interruptions)

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I have got up and made the statement. (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Sir, the hon. Minister is misleading the House. While replying on the subject of Energy in the Monsoon Session he said that counter guarantee was being given and the Cabinet had cleared it. (Interruptions)

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, the hon. Member does not understand anything. The counter guarantee is not given for any return. (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Then, what for?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Let us have a debate on this. (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: You have already given counter guarantees to the multi-national companies....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not the subject matter for discussion now.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, counter guarantee has been given by the Union Government to the multi-national companies in the case of energy generation units and he himself has said that....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question before us is that when the hon. Member, Shri Chandrasekhar was speaking, there was some remark by the Energy Minister. That matter has been cleared, Now, we shall go to fisheries....(Interruptions)

SHRI, SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, the Minister is making a wrong statement. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao to speak....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, I have to make one point. He will say that the agreement is with the Maharashtra Government....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not the subject matter before us now....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, he is trying to escape from this with a technical answer. That is why, he is misleading the House. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao to speak. He is on his legs.(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, the Minister's statement is misleading the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the proper time.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed only Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao to speak....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, I support the issue raised by Shri Ram Naik. I will not take much of your time because my senior colleague, Shri Chandrasekharji has already put the issue in the proper perspective. Even in our coastal areas, the livelihood of the fishermen is being jeopardised because of this new policy, which has been taken by the

Government, of allowing MNCs to fish in our sea shores. Our poor fishermen do not know any other work except to catch fish, sell it and live with it. The present policy of the Union Government is adversely affecting the livelihood of these poor fishermen. We request the Minister to make a statement whether the Government is prepared to reconsider the present policy, which is just to please the MNCs in each and every sphere. The hon. Minister is denying that the Government has given any guarantee. But agreements have already been concluded, in some cases with Central electricity Authority, and in some other cases with foreign multi-national companies. It is not 16 per cent but even 25 per cent post tax profit is going to them and the Government is giving counter guarantees to them. Do not sell the interests of this country to the MNCs. You have not right to sell the interests of the people of this country.

We request the Government to immediately reconsider the present policy in regard to giving licences for catching fish in the sea shores to these multi-national companies.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Sir, my colleague, Shri Ram Naik, has raised a point, on which cutting across party lines, the representatives of all sections of this House have totally supported it. This point has been raised earlier also.

I remember when the delegation of fishermen from Gujarat had come to meet us here, we had raised this issue in this House. But unfortunately, the Government seems to have a closed mind on money matters and they proceed on the assumption that there is public consensus on the policy that they are following. Sir, I happened to meet a group of fishermen in connection with this issue when I was campaigning in Karnataka in this election itself. They visualized doom for themselves. They said that this policy of the Government inviting multinationals to have fishing in deep sea waters will bring doom for them. They said, "We who are small men, nearly three lakh people subsist on fishing." Karnataka has a coastline of nearly 325 or 350 kilometers. Unfortunately, the Government seems unconcerned. Apart from the opinion expressed in this House, I would like the Government to take notice of the verdict given in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. This was also a contributory factor. In deference to the wishes of the people and in defence to the wishes of the House, I would like the Government of India, either the Finance Minister or the Commerce Minister, to come forward in this House and make a statement responding to the points made by Shri Ram Naik, and say that they are not going to permit this kind of deep sea fishing by these Multinational Corporations.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, I fully support the point raised by Shri Ram Naik. As you know, Orissa coastline is nearly 450 kilometers and lakhs of fishermen depend on this. We saw the news in the newspapers. All the fishermen from the entire coastline of East and West are agitated today. But the Government is not prepared to appreciate that if deep sea fishing trawlers come, the fishermen will be totally out from the fishing. So, whatever licences have been already given, these should be

immediately cancelled. In future, no licence should be given to multinationals or any Indian big companies. Those who are interested for putting big trawlers in the sea should also be banned and the Government must come forward with a statement immediately today itself that they are going to change this policy. They should not give any licence henceforth and whatever licence has been given, it should be cancelled forthwith.

[Translation]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA (Chatra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the number of fishermen eking out their livelihood from ancestral profession is very large. They do not have any other source of livelihood except fishing. They completely depend on fishing. The Government has done a great injustice to them by giving permission to foreign companies for deep sea fishing. It seems from this as if the Government has done so to snatch away the means of livelihood from them. A fear has gripped the fishermen that how they would make their livelihood. As a result thereof, the incidents of violence are increasing and Naxalism is flourishing. The Government is responsible for all this. I, therefore, demand that the permission given to the multinational companies should be immediately withdrawn.

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur): There should be half-an-hour discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are others also to express their feelings.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I join with my colleague Shri Ram Naik. Lakhs of fishermen are on the warpath only for their survival. You know, Sir, about one crore fishermen, and with about five crore people, the largest contingent amongst Scheduled Caste in the country, are on strike. Here we are talking day in and day out of the welfare of downtrodden people and weaker sections of the society. The Government is talking of competition. But how can the fishermen, the poorest people of the country, compete with the multinationals? It is madness. There is no planning. It is just surrender and selling the fate of our poor people to the foreign multinationals.

We condemn this policy of allowing foreign trawlers. We demand that all the licences should be cancelled and no licence should be given in future. The protection should be given to the poor fishermen, so that they can continue earning their livelihood on their own in this country.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I join all my friends, who have spoken about the fishermen. I want to make two points on this count. Neither the high technology is required in this field nor it is a fact that our fishermen cannot earn foreign exchange. They are earning foreign exchange. On what grounds is this Government putting the fishermen in such a trouble by allowing the foreign trawlers in deep sea fishing? I would like to point out to them that this is the kind of policy which has led to their defeat in the recent elections and I hope they will immediately redress this step.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): Sir, I too hail from coastal Karnataka. There is an apprehension in the minds of the fishermen that by allowing the foreign trawlers they will not be able to get any catches. I urge upon the Government to come before the House and issue a statement as to what is the intention of the Government; as to how the scheme is going to operate. We should also stop foreign trawlers from poaching in our own waters and withdraw licences given to them. We should stop the foreign trawlers from operating in our own waters.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the new economic policy is proving a big disaster. Every Ministry or minister is in the race of usurping the national property. On the one-hand there is the question of the life of 75 lakh fishermen, whereas on the other hand, the Government is striking at our far-reaching national interests by resorting to this step. The House is unanimous on this view. Therefore, the Government should come out with a statement in this regard and change the policy accordingly. No new licences should be issued and the old licences should be cancelled. It is not a question pertaining to any party. It is in the interest of the nation.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I want to bring to your notice another aspect of this question. There is a law and there is a provision that the country's fishermen with their countryboats are allowed to catch fish within a five kilometers from the sea shore. These were the reserved areas for the country's fishermen and they were used to use the countryboat. Now, it has been reported that trawlers are being allowed to enter into that region, which was reserved for the poor fishermen using the countryboat. It is not only in the deep sea but trawlers are being allowed to come near the sea and that takes away the possibility and opportunity of earning livelihood by the poor citizens. Therefore, I think, these local fishermen who were allowed to catch fish within the area of five kilometers from the shore should be allowed and no trawler—small big or medium—should be allowed to enter into that region. I think, the Government should act in this matter.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatnam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that many trades of the artisan groups were cornered by the vested interests in this country with the tacit approval of the Opposition Parties. Nine years back the trawlers were introduced by the Janata Dal Government.

Earlier, fishermen used to go for deep fishing. Then a new policy was introduced by the Janata Dal Government that each entrepreneur would be given Rs. one crore as loan and only Rs. five lakh was to be contributed by the entrepreneur himself. This scheme was introduced by the then Janata Dal Government. When I was an MLA, we were opposing it tooth and nail but nobody else cried against this. They are expert in making fool of others and defaming them. Now, why have they given these trawlers to the vested interests of this country? Hundreds of

thousands of trawlers were given with Rs. one crore free loan. At that time did they think how the fishermen of the country could pay that much? Even a Rs. 10,000 loan cannot be given. So, it is not the Congress Government or the Janata Dal Government, it is the front benches which colluded to take away the artisan's rightful trades also. This country has witnessed that unless the front benches colluded with the ruling party, nothing can be done in this country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Thomas.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister is ready to respond to it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, Ram Niwas Mirdha Ji is there. He knows how difficult it is to make the Government respond to a matter. Unless you insist that there should be a statement from that side.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nirmal Ji, Mr. Thomas is on his legs. Afterwards there are three or four persons to speak and then the hon. Minister is ready to respond to it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Nirmal Ji, please respect my legs. I am on my legs.

Sir, I am also supporting the view expressed by the other members of the House. We must take into account the very fact that the fishermen are the poorest of the poor in this country and during almost half of the year, they are in poverty. They are not getting any job during those times also when the weather is bad. So, we have to see that the policy on this matter is put straight. I would urge upon the Government to come forward with a statement and also to clarify the policy of the Government with regard to this aspect. The Government has a bounden duty to see that lakhs and lakhs of the poor fishermen of this country and also the other crores of people who are living upon them, are looked after properly. Therefore, I, on behalf of my party, the Kerala Congress Party, support the view expressed by all others.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, the issue raised by Shri Ram Naik is a matter of urgent importance throughout the country. I do not understand why the Government is trying to globalise our sea shores also. As my other friends have pointed out, it is affecting lakhs of our fishermen. In Kerala, where we have a very large coastal area, the fishermen, as pointed out by my friend Mr. Thomas, are starving for half of the year. Do, they have to starve for the whole year? Even now they are not getting any catches. I would like to know what steps the Government is taking to guarantee the fishermen of their catches. They have issued licences and they are still in the process of issuing licences. Is it not the duty of the Government to look after the interests of the fishermen of the country? Is it not the duty of the Government to guarantee catches to the fishermen of this country.

How can you just ignore the very interest of the most downtrodden people among the society? Sir, in the name of foreign exchange and opening up of the policy, it shall

not be to the detriment of our own people. Therefore, this is really an absurd policy so far as our national and fishermen's interests are concerned. The Government should review it as well as come to the House and say what all the steps they have taken to protect the interests of our fishermen. I fully agree with the views given expression to by other friends in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAGAR (Barabanki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the coastal areas of the country, the fishermen have been traditionally fishing in the sea. The Government's declaration to entrust the work of fishing at deep sea to foreign companies has given rise to the resentment among the fishermen community. In Uttar Pradesh the Government headed by Shri Mulayam Singh has framed a policy in this regard. The same policy should be implemented in the whole country. The poverty among fishermen community should be alleviated and their problem should be solved immediately.

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Sir, as a person who comes from the fishermen family I would express my anguish and agony against the decision of the Government to give about 200 licences to the foreign fishing trawlers which will sweep away the entire fish wealth of this country. A storm of agitation is going across the coastal lines of the country cutting across party lines, against this decision of the Government. My request to the Government is to cancel immediately all the licences given so far and then call all the representatives of the fishermen so that a decision is taken which will be favourable only for the fishermen and not against anybody. Thank you.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (Cannanore): Sir, I am in full agreement with the sentiments and views expressed by the hon. Members of this august House. I request that the hon. Minister should come forward and make a statement in this connection.

[Translation]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the policy of the Government to give licences to foreign companies for deep sea fishing is a severe blow to the fishermen of the country. There are about one crore fishermen in the country. Their only profession is fishing. They are landless and do not have any other alternative source of livelihood. Framing of such a law by the Government of India tantamounts to treachery. I, therefore, demand from the Union Government that the decision to issue licences to foreign companies should be withdrawn. As no licence is required for fishing in Bihar, the same policy should be implemented in other parts of the country.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to put forth only one point. We have received memoranda from various fishermen's organisations in which they have mentioned about hardships of their day to day life. Since the time of

handing over the work of deep sea fishing to multinational companies, their lives have become miserable and full of sorrow. I strongly support the views expressed by Shri Ram Naik. Sir, through you, I demand from the Government that multinationals should be excluded from the jurisdiction of deep-sea fishing and their licences should be cancelled with immediate effect. In the end, I would only like to say that:

"Garib ko Mat Sata, Garib Ro Dega,
Sunega Uska Khuda, To Tumhe Jad Se Khod Dega."

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, we note with all respect the views expressed by all sections of the House about this particular issue. As rightly said by the Leader of the Opposition, I was also there and this was one of the issues on which grave concern was expressed in the coastal area. This has been said by my hon. friend, Shri Oscar Fernandes also. I assure this august House that we will request the concerned Minister to make a statement before this House and if it is to be followed by a discussion, we will leave it to the hon. Speaker or to you. We will apprise the Minister today itself and request him to make a statement. About the time and date it can be decided by the Speaker or the Dy. Speaker. (Interruptions) The Minister will make the statement tomorrow.

12.41 hrs.

RE: BOMBAY BOUND INDRAYANI EXPRESS
TRAIN RUNNING WITHOUT ENGINE DRIVER

[English]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Sir, in the last week of the September, the Bombay bound Indrayani Express ran without engine driver and his colleagues from Monkey Hills to Karjat Railway Station for a distance of 13 Kms. at the speed of 80 kms. per hour. The train was completely without loco running staff and without any control. It ran through the Ghats along with the double rate of the normal speed endangering the life of hundreds of railway commuters. This type of acts of criminal negligence are happening day in and day out on the Central Railway especially between the Bombay-Pune Railway track disrupting the normal routine of the railway transport and causing displeasure to the commuters which results in the loss of lives and property worth crores of rupees.

I urge upon the Railway Minister, through you, Sir to make a statement, look into the matter seriously and make arrangements for improving the condition of Central Railway as well as set up enquiries for all such matters and punish the guilty persons.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Sir, the incident that has taken place to Indrayani Express is a very serious incident. It would have been the worst tragedy of this century as far as even the world is