

यह भी सही नहीं है कि गुजरात की सरकार ने कहा कि इसको ज्यादा ऊंचा किया जाए और इसका नतीजा यह होता कि हाइड्रल प्राजेक्ट जो मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार बनाने जा रही है वह सबमर्ज हो जाती और इस कारण से मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार ने एतराज किया है ?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is not quite so. The agreement was signed by the Ministers but it was not signed by the Chief Ministers. When it went to the Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, for his concurrence, he raised many other points and therefore, it did not come into effect.

SHRI R. K. AMIN : In view of the fact that at one time Madhya Pradesh was ready to construct a dam at a height of 465 ft. above sea level at Haranpal, may I know what prevents the Government of India agreeing to the construction of a dam at the same height at Navagam ?

DR. K. L. RAO : This is one of the ways one can argue about it, the relative height and other things. But one has to get the acceptance, if possible, of the State concerned. As regards the construction of a dam at Haranpal, Madhya Pradesh proposed to the height of 465 ft.; they do not agree however to the construction of Navagam dam at 465 ft.

श्री शिव नारायण :

रहिमन पानी राखिये, बिनु पानी सब सून ।
पानी गया न उभरे, मोती मानुष चून ।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह पानी का जो प्रश्न है इसको लेकर ए० आई० सी० का जो रेजोल्यूशन था उसका क्या भाव था और उस पर इन दोनों राज्यों ने क्या अमल किया है ? यदि नहीं किया है तो उनके खिलाफ आपने क्या एकशन लिया है या ए० आई० सी० सी० के प्रेजिडेंट ने क्या एकशन लिया है ?

DR. K. L. RAO : I have studied the resolution as also the speeches made

on that occasion. The main point made out there in both was that national interests must prevail and should take precedence over the interests of any particular State.

PRICES OF SULPHUR

*809. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that while the price of sulphur in the U.S.A. has increased from \$ 16.00 in 1956 to \$ 38.50 per ton it has increased from Rs. 150/- to Rs. 800/- per ton in India; and

(b) if so, the reasons contributing to this disproportionate rise in the cost of sulphur in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : (a) The price of sulphur in USA at the beginning of the decade was \$ 20 per long ton F.O.B. which has increased to about \$48 per long ton F.O.B., for the supplies made by the traditional suppliers of USA. During this period, the CIF price of sulphur in India increased from Rs. 150 to between Rs. 525 and Rs. 600 per long ton, depending on the source of supply.

(b) The reasons for the rise are :—

- (i) Steep increase in prices in the world market consequent on world-wide shortage of the commodity ;
- (ii) devaluation of the Indian Rupee by 57.5% ;
- (iii) increase in freight costs due to the closure of the Suez canal ;
- (iv) reduction of normal supplies from traditional sources; and
- (v) import of sulphur from non-traditional sources at higher prices to make up the shortage.

SHRI HIMATSINGKA : About a million tons of sulphur is being imported per year and the average price for importing it through the STC comes to about 75 US dollars... The agreement of Dharamsi Morarji Fertiliser Project with the Kuwait Chemical Fertiliser Company provides for a price which is 10-15 US dollars less than the price paid by the STC. In that context, may I ask the Government whether they would allow sulphur to be imported by the actual users rather than channelling it through the STC? What is the policy?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : The present policy is to allow not only the STC but also the actual users and the established importers to import sulphur.

SHRI HIMATSINGKA : In view of the fact that the use of sulphur is increasing and the supply of sulphur is diminishing in the world and even countries which are producing sulphur are going over to other processes to save sulphur, what steps do the Government propose to minimise the use of sulphur and what action are they taking to exploit pyrite deposits in Amjhore in Bihar and produce elemental sulphur at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA): Pyrite deposits are being developed not only at Amjhore in Bihar but also in Rajasthan. Both these developments are going ahead.

SHRI RANGA : He has asked another question—steps to minimise the use of sulphur by adopting other processes.

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : This question has been answered in reply to unstarred question No. 5242 for 21-12-67. I shall however give a gist of that reply. Some production of sulphuric acid based on indigenous pyrites, sulphurous gases available

from non-ferrous smelter plants, refinery gases and coke oven gases has planned as detailed below :

Based on smelter gases of non-ferrous metal plants.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Cominco Binani Zinc Ltd. Alwaye | tonnes 33,000 .. |
| 2. Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Udaipur | 28,450 .. |
| 3. Indian Copper Corporation, Ghatsila | 40,000 .. |

Based on coke oven gases

| | |
|---|----------|
| 4. Durgapur Projects Ltd., Durgapur | 2,500 .. |
|---|----------|

Based on refinery gases

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|---|----------|
| 5. Fertilizer Corporation of India, Trombay | 4,200 .. |
|---|----------|

Based on Amjhore pyrites—
which has already been answered—

| | |
|--|------------|
| 6. Pyrites and Chemicals Development Company, Sindri | 132,000 .. |
| 7. Fertilizer Corporation of India, Sindri | 264,000 .. |

In addition to that in the place of single super phosphate in the manufacture of which large quantities of sulphur are used encouragement is being given to other fertilizers like nitro-phosphate and phosphoric acid by IMI process substituting sulphuric acid by hydrochloric acid.

SHRI DINKAR DESAI : In the world market, the prices have gone up. What is the average world market price?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : There is no average world price. The supplies from the traditional sources have been reduced; but their prices are somewhat favourable. If we try to get sulphur from other sources, we have to pay whatever price the supplier charges. But there is no such thing as one single price in the world market.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : Is it a fact that vast reserves of rock phosphates have also been discovered in Rajasthan, in Udaipur, Barmer and Jaisalmer and, if so, what steps are being taken to get these reserves

exploited? I want to know also whether they would be exploited in the public sector to feed our factories?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: The hon. Member knows that I had replied to this question when he wrote to me about it. These are still under investigation and have not yet reached a stage when we can take them up for development. That is what I have replied to him.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कान्तम्मा : सल्फर के सम्बन्ध में सेल्फ सफि शैसी प्राप्त करने के लिये गवर्न-मेंट का क्या कार्य क्रम है। क्या सरकार को पता है कि आन्ध्र प्रदेश में भद्राचलम, गोदावरी वैली, गुन्टूर और मंगलगिरि में सल्फर के डिपाजिट हैं; यदि हां, तो सरकार उस क्षेत्र का सर्वे करा कर उन डिपाजिट्स को एक्सप्लायट करने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

श्री अशोक मेहता : हर चीज में सेल्फ-सफि शैसी तो नहीं आ सकती है, लेकिन जैसा कि पहले भी बताया गया है, हम ये तीन काम कर रहे हैं : हम पाइराइट्स का डेवेलपमेंट कर के उस के जरिये सल्फर बनाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, हम ऐसे फर्टिलाइजर बनाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, जिन में सल्फर का इस्तेमाल कम हो और हम मिडल ईस्ट कन्ट्रीज से सम्बन्ध स्थापित के कर वहां में कम दाम पर सल्फर प्राप्त करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

श्री शिवचरण लाल : क्या मंत्री महोदय को ज्ञात है कि बलूचिस्तान में गन्धक की खानें हैं, यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने गन्धक खरीदने के लिये पाकिस्तान सरकार से कोई बातचीत की है ?

श्री अशोक मेहता : जी नहीं।

SHRI NAMBIAR: In view of the fact that the present price is five times more than the price prevalent in the previous years, is it not possible for us to give up purchasing sulphur from foreign countries, because of the foreign exchange shortage ?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH: You cannot altogether avoid the purchase of Sulphur; you can only reduce dependence on it.

SHRI R. BARUA: Apart from various steps taken to reduce the use of sulphur, has any concrete step been taken to get sulphur at cheap rate from Kuwait and Iran ?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: We have entered into some arrangement with Kuwait. Recently, I had been to Iran and we have been exploring the possibilities in Iran also. These are matters which are being gone into.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Although Indian has no elemental source of sulphur, there are two other sources—iron and low grade coal. Iron ore and low grade coal ore are rich in sulphur content. One question about the extraction of sulphur from iron pyrites has been answered. I want to know whether in the distillation process of ammonia fertilisers and coal gas, sulphur also can be produced as by-product from low grade coal? If so, have the Government any plan to extract sulphur as a by-product from low grade coal ore in India which is in plenty ?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: These are being investigated in our national laboratories. So far no economic process has been brought to my notice.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Millions of tons of ore are lost.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: These things are being looked into by our National Laboratories and no economic process has been brought up so far.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि सारे देश में सल्फर की मांग बहुत अधिक है, इसी लिए इस के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत में गन्धक का प्रयोग सब से ज्यादा किस काम में होता है और उस को घटाने के लिये सरकार मुख्य रूप से क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है।

श्री अशोक मेहता : यह बताया गया है कि उस का इस्तेमाल फर्टिलाइजर में होता है और उस को घटाने के तरीके भी बताए गये हैं। लेकिन चूँकि फासफेटिक फर्टिलाइजर की मांग बहुत बढ़ने वाली है और बढ़ रही है, इसलिये उस में सल्फर की रिलेटिव प्रोपोर्शन कम करने के बाद भी उस की डिमांड बहुत बढ़ने वाली है।

SHRI KAMALANATHAN : Is it a fact that the Fertiliser Corporation of Travancore applied for import of sulphur but the Central Government has rejected it? If so, what is the reason?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : We are not aware of any shortage of sulphur for FACT.

SHRI K. K. NAYAR : I would like to know whether the sulphur that is used in the preparation of phosphates and superphosphates goes into the final product or whether it is recovered?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : The sulphur that is used for the manufacture of fertilisers cannot be recovered.

CONCESSIONS TO NEW FERTILIZER FACTORIES

*811. **SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to give concessions of pricing and distribution to the fertilizer factories set up after the 31st December, 1967; and

(b) if so, the broad details thereof with other concessions proposed to be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). During the period that fertilizer projects licenced before 31st December, 1967 enjoy the freedom to fix prices and distribute their products,

fertilizer plants set up after that the cannot be denied that freedom.

SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : May I know whether import licences to the tune of several crores have recently been given to a Bombay firm for import of sulphur, ammonia and several connected chemicals at any rate from any part of the country, without any restriction on prices, by the Reserve Bank for manufacturing fertilisers in India?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA) : It is too general a question. It does not arise out of this also. If he writes to me, I will look into it and give a reply. I am sorry I cannot reply to a very general question like that.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOEL : May I know why this concession has been extended to factories established after December, 1967 and how many factories have been actually established after 31st December, 1967 which are enjoying these concessions?

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH : I have already explained that during the period during which these companies enjoy that privilege, we cannot deny the rest, because you cannot control the price of one and allow the other to sell at any price they like. About the number, 10 companies have been established.

SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : May I know what is the requirement of fertilisers in the country for consumption this year and what is the quantity of fertilisers sought to be imported from other countries?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : I would like to have notice of that question. I have not got the exact figures.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय से सवाल पूछने से पहले मैं यह कहूँगा कि मैं जो सवाल करने वाला हूँ उस का जबाब पहले भी दो तीन बार उन्होंने नहीं