

**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 चूंकि 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 कहूंगा कि मैं जो सवाल करने वाला हूं उस का जबाब पहले भी दो तीन बार उन्होंने नहीं

दिया है तो उसका जबाब पूरा दें, यह मेरा उन से निवेदन है। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या यह खास रियायत की नीति केवल बिरलाओं को देने के लिये बनाई गई है क्योंकि बिरला नई फ़ैक्ट्री गोवा में लगा रहे हैं और क्या यह भी सत्य है कि मिनिस्टर आफ इंडस्ट्रियल डेवलपमेंट ने राज्य सभा में यह घोषणा की थी कि जब तक बिरलाओं के खिलाफ इन्क्वायरी चल रही है और जब तक ठेकार कमेटी रिपोर्ट नहीं दे देती उस वक्त तक कोई इंडस्ट्रियल लाइसेंस उन को नहीं दिये जायेंगे तो किन हालात में मिनिस्ट्री आफ पेट्रोलियम एंड केमिकल्स ने फर्टिलाइजर फ़ैक्ट्री लगाने का लाइसेंस दिया है और उन्हें मजीद लाभ पहुंचाने की योजना बनाई गई है ?

श्री अशोक मेहता : जहां तक पालिसी का सवाल है यह पालिसी जैसा मेरे साथी ने बताया दस फ़ैक्ट्रीज को उस का फायदा दिया गया है और अलग अलग कम्पनीज ने दस फ़ैक्ट्रीज चलाने का फैसला किया होगा। जहां तक लाइसेंस देने का सवाल है पूरी तफ़्सील में आने के बाद कैबिनेट ने फैसला किया कि फर्टिलाइजर प्रोडक्शन के लिये जरूरी है कि हिन्दुस्तान एग्लुमीनियम कम्पनी को फर्टिलाइजर का लाइसेंस दिया जाय।

श्री प्रेम चन्द बर्मा : लेकिन अध्यक्ष महोदय, इंडस्ट्रियल डेवलपमेंट मिनिस्टर ने अपने वक्तव्य में सदन में कहा था कि लाइसेंस नहीं दिये जायेंगे : जब कैबिनेट ने फैसला किया है तो उन्हें जरूर मालूम होगा। तो या तो मिनिस्टर ने गलत वक्तव्य दिया था या यह गलत कह रहे हैं।

श्री रणधीर सिंह : मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछना चाहूंगा कि फर्टिलाइजर के कन्जोशन्स फर्टिलाइजर मैनुफैक्चरर्स के बजाय किसान को देना चाहिये और किसान को सस्ता फर्टिलाइजर मिलना चाहिये। हिन्दु-

स्तान में जो फर्टिलाइजर बनता है वह बाहर से जो इम्पोर्ट होता है उसकी दुगुनी कीमत का होता है। मैं उनसे पूछना चाहूंगा कि फर्टिलाइजर प्राइसेज या उसके डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन में खास तौर पर ब्रोअर्स को किसानों को फायदा पहुंचाने की कोई स्कीम है जिम में कि उनको सस्ता दिया जाये और जो डिमान्ड है उनकी, उसके मुताबिक सप्लाई किया जाय ? एक साल, दो साल, 5 साल, 7 साल, कितने सालों में सारे देश के किसानों को सस्ते और रियायती दामों पर फर्टिलाइजर दिया जा सकेगा ताकि देश की पैदावार बढ़े ?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : Firstly, I do not accept that the prices here are three times the prices abroad. Secondly, the prices in some countries are subsidised. We were paying subsidy till recently, but we have withdrawn it. Thirdly, it was pointed out only last Monday that when the new plants are set up based on modern technology, the prices will go down even to the extent of 40 per cent, though I would not like to be bound down to that figure. With the extensive production programme we have drawn up, we will be in a position to meet all the requirements of fertilisers in the country and the agriculturists will be in a position to pay the price, because the price will be comparable to the price prevailing anywhere else in the world without subsidy. Whether subsidy is to be given or not is a matter with which my ministry does not deal.

SHRI UMANATH : One of the issues on which there has been growing resistance from all sides of the House is the concession given in pricing and distribution of fertilisers. There has been even greater resistance with regard to the extension being given from time to time. Is the extension given because recently in their report, the World Bank advised the Government of India—I do not use the word 'dictation' because our Government does not want it—to

[Shri Umanath]

encourage and more freedom in pricing and distribution? Is it in consonance with this advice and the pressure of the World Bank on the question of giving more loans to our Government that the concessions are being extended again?

**SHRI ASOKA MEHTA** : There has been no pressure on the Government of India. Secondly, the date 31st December, 1967 has not been extended. All these plants that have come up during that period will have a 7 year period wherein they will enjoy this freedom. Any plant that comes up after that will not enjoy the freedom for a fresh period of full 7 years, but will enjoy it during the remaining portion of that 7 year period. For instance, even if it comes up in the sixth year, it will enjoy the freedom for 1 year. As my colleague pointed out, we cannot pursue two entirely different policies at the same time. There is no question of extending the period.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छाय** : अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा था कि फर्टीलाइजर के दस कारखाने लगाने वाले हैं। तो उन कारखानों की स्थिति इस समय क्या है? कितने दिनों में वह पूरा उत्पादन देने वाले हैं और उससे हमारी कमी कितनी पूरी होगी? या माननीय मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि यह जो खाद है यह किसान को काफी महंगा पड़ता है इसलिये कम्पोस्ट की जो प्रथा है हर देहात में लोग अधिक कम्पोस्ट की खाद तैयार कर सकें उसके लिये विशेष सहायता देने वाले हैं जिससे काश्तकार अपने गांव के अन्दर, अपने घर में कूड़े कचरे से खाद तैयार कर सकें जो उसके लिये सस्ती पड़ेगी?

**SHRI ASOKA MEHTA** : I cannot just now say when all these plants will go into production, but we expect most of them to go into production in 1970, 1971 and 1972—some in 1970, some in 1971 and others in 1972. The requirements of fertilisers in the country are growing and we expect that all our requirements will be met

from internal production by 1972. After that again there will be a further market increase. It is now assumed that by 1975-76 the requirements of indigenous fertilisers will be 5 million tonnes. We have not yet been able to locate the plants which could produce all these fertilisers. We are doing everything possible and I am confident we will be able to have this production in the country. About the prices, I have already replied. As far as organic manure is concerned, the role of organic manure is complementary to that of chemical fertilisers and the Ministry of Agriculture is doing all that is possible about organic manure.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छाय** : मेरे प्रश्न के दूसरे भाग का उत्तर नहीं आया। देहातों के अन्दर काश्तकार अपने घरों में कचरे कूड़े से कम्पोस्ट तैयार कर सकें, उसके लिए सरकार क्या सहयोग देने वाली है?

**SHRI ASOKA MEHTA** : I have said that the Ministry of Agriculture is doing all that is possible. If the hon. Member has any questions he may ask them of that Ministry.

**SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO** : We have private sector units and also public sector units for production of fertiliser. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the concession given to the private sector, both in the matter of policy as well as price fixation, would affect the price policy and distribution of the public sector production also or would they also made along with the private sector policies and price fixation?

**SHRI ASOKA MEHTA** : Public sector also has to follow the same policy when it has to organise its own sales. I think it is not any privilege. It is of great advantage to the agriculturists. When fertiliser producers are asked to organise their marketing they have to go about providing all kinds of extension services and see that they produce the kind of fertiliser mixture that agriculture wants.

There is a close relationship between the wants of the agriculturists and what is being produced. The fertiliser production has to be according to the needs of the agriculturists. The fertiliser producers must be responsible to see that what they produce is really what the agriculturists want. There is no likelihood of any kind of exploitation of the agriculturists. Hon. Members will themselves come forward after two years, if there is any change in these policies, saying that it would be resisted and resented to by the agriculturists.

श्री शिंदरे : गोवा में प्राइवेट सेक्टर में फर्टिलाइजर फैक्टरी की स्थापना होने वाली है, लेकिन जैसा कि कहा जाता है, कारखाने के लिए जमीन एकवायर करने का जो आश्वासन दिया गया था वह अभी तक पूरा नहीं हुआ इसलिए कारखाना स्थापित नहीं हो सका इसलिए मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि वह आश्वासन कब पूरा हो जाएगा और वह कारखाना कब स्थापित हो जाएगा ?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : This is something between the Government of Goa and the particular production.

श्री शिंदरे : इस बारे में मैं ने सुना है ।...

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : I am not in a position to give any answer to the hon. Member. It is a matter between the Government of Goa and that project authorities.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हर साल लगभग 200 करोड़ रुपए का फर्टिलाइजर इम्पोर्ट होता है, यह सारा फॉरन एक्सचेंज लगता है। इसके अलावा चूंकि हमारी फर्टिलाइजर की रिक्वायरमेंट बढ़ती जाती है और लोकल प्रोडक्शन उसके मुकाबले में कम है इसलिए यह फर्टिलाइजर पब्लिक सेक्टर और प्राइवेट सेक्टरों दोनों में होता है। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बात सही है कि प्राइवेट सेक्टर में जो फर्टिलाइजर इन्डस्ट्री

खोली जा रही है या खुलने वाली है उनके संघटन में इसलिए देर होती है क्योंकि हमारी सरकार के कुछ मिनिस्टर यह चाहते हैं कि इस स्टेट के बजाए उस स्टेट में खुले, उनके रीजनल कन्सीडरेशन होते हैं जिसकी वजह से खुलने में देर होती है और लोकल प्रोडक्शन जो कि ज्यादा होना चाहिए वह बढ़ नहीं पाता है ?

श्री असोक मेहता : जी नहीं।

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : May I draw the attention of the Government to the fact that so far our technique or our allocation of the projects in regard to supply of raw materials to these projects was coal based and later on it was switched over to naphtha based. Now it is coming to imported liquid ammonia. May I know whether Government is seriously thinking of fully exploiting indigenous resources to start fertiliser projects rather than going in for raw materials which are imported from outside countries? May I know whether this fact is borne in mind? In that context, may I know whether the fertiliser project in Kothagudium, which was first started to be coal-based, is now being brought back in line with that thinking because the technical know-how and raw materials are available in our country?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : Our programme of fertiliser production is broadly based upon 75 per cent nitrogen, 7 to 8 per cent of ammonia and the rest on coal, electrolysis and others. So, very largely it is naphtha based while other raw materials which are available in the country are also being fully utilised. How far we should go ahead with fertiliser plants that are coal-based is an economic problem. I believe that coal-based fertiliser plant may turn out to be more economical as far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned. As far as Korba is concerned, two separate projects have been drawn up and we are evaluating them in close consultation with the Government of Madhya Pradesh. After we find which is economically feasible we

[Shri Asoka Mehata]

would like to go ahead with it. About Kothagudium also, while it is difficult to say, we want to prepare two studies, one naphtha based and the other coal based, and if on economic ground we find that coal-based fertiliser would be advantageous we would like to do it. It is desirable to have a fertiliser plant in that area. As to what should be the raw material is a matter to be carefully gone into. As far as ammonia is concerned, I think one hon. Member—his neighbour himself—asked the question, what are you doing to get sulphur from some of these countries. If we want to get sulphur, nobody is willing to give sulphur unless we are willing to buy something else with it. There are all kinds of other considerations with it. Secondly, if we import ammonia we may be able to produce fertiliser quickly in a year or in 18 months and that too with a much smaller investment. If the hon. Member says that it is better that we import finished fertiliser and we need not import ammonia at all, I can understand that point of view. But the Government of India's point of view is that in all these things a proper, carefully achieved balance has to be struck. I would appeal to the hon. Member, who is a very distinguished spokesman of the Ruling Party, that he should not ask a question or even make a remark in a question which would be disparaging about the policy.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Sir, I rise on a point of personal explanation. I did not mean any disparaging remark. What I said was, naphtha was originally intended to be consumed in this country. Because we could not set up factories, that naphtha was being exported. With regard to Korba our thinking was to have it coal-based. We gave it up after spending Rs. 5 crores. Now we are coming back again to use that raw material. I only wanted to ask whether Government is thinking of making the maximum utilisation of the indigenous raw materials available.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अशोक मेहता जी के बयान पर मेरा व्यक्त्या का प्रश्न है। उन्होंने नीति में बुनियादी परिवर्तन किया है। मैं उसके कारण बताऊंगा आप मौका दीजिए।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It has been the practice in this House not to allow any point of order during Question Hour. I would not like to deviate from that.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the machinery he will be having to see that there is a proper distribution of fertilisers and they are made available to the farmers at a price which he can afford. Distribution rights have been given to the private sector. Public sector is also going to produce fertilisers. What will be the comparison between the prices of the two? I have just been to some districts in parts of Mysore I found that licensed fertiliser dealers had no fertiliser to sell whereas on the road at several places there were gunny bags full of fertilisers available at prices at which the blackmarketeers were selling. After giving distribution rights to the private sector if Government takes no responsibility to see that fertiliser is made available at economic prices to the farmers, then where are we heading to? Even if we have a larger production in the country the situation is not going to change.

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA : The position is not like that. The hon. Member knows what the position is, because I have explained it to her personally on a number of occasions. No. 1, 30 per cent of the production the Government has a right to take over; No. 2; almost 60 to 65 per cent of the total production will be in the public sector. All that is available to the Government. No. 3, whatever is imported is also with the Government. So, 30 per cent from private sector firms, the entire production from the public sector and whatever is imported all that is at the disposal

of the Government to deploy in whatever manner it wants. If in any particular place something has gone wrong. I shall be very grateful if that matter is conveyed to me. I will get it examined and satisfy the hon. Member that it is being corrected.

#### IRRIGATION FACILITIES

\*812. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in increasing the irrigation facilities as a result of it (i) usual programmes and (ii) programmes undertaken to meet drought conditions in the year 1967-68; and

(b) the targets in this direction for the year 1968-69 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) During 1967-68 irrigation facilities to the extent of 2.1 million acres by major and medium projects and about an equal area by minor schemes has been added.

No special irrigation programme to meet the drought conditions was undertaken in 1967-68, except completion of works already taken in hand in earlier years.

(b) The target for 1968-69 is 2 million acres by major and medium schemes and about an equal area by minor schemes

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Is it not a fact that the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission went thoroughly into the increase in irrigational facilities in the country. May I know whether the figure cited by the hon. Minister tallies with the figure mentioned by that Organisation ? Secondly, what are the other recommendations of that body ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : Our persistent aim has been to increase the irrigation potentialities as far as possible and wherever it is possible. In the drought-affected areas like

Bihar and UP special programmes are also to be taken up. That is the accepted policy. But it depends upon the financial restraints. For example, in 1967-68 we could not do very much. But in 1968-69 an additional amount is going to be spent in South Bihar and at the moment 1½ lakhs pump projects like Gandak, and Sone high level canal.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Regarding increasing the irrigation facilities I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the requirements of funds have been calculated and, if so, what will be the amount necessary for increasing the irrigation facilities in the country ?

DR. K. L. RAO : This year for the irrigation projects the Deputy Prime Minister has allotted Rs. 25 crores more for giving extra assistance to those projects which are in an advanced stage of construction and which will give yields soon. On this consideration this amount will be distributed among 5 or 6 projects which are in an advanced stage of construction.

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकर : पिछले वर्षों से सूखे से सरकार अभी तक सबक नहीं सीख पाई है, मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि खास कर के बिहार में पश्चिमी कोसी नहर और गंडक योजना और पूर्वी कोसी नहर की राजपुर कनाल को क्या सरकार इस साल समुचित रूप से पानी देने की व्यवस्था करने जा रही है ? साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि पश्चिमी कोसी नहर की खुदाई में जो बिलम्ब हुआ है उसके सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या कार्रवाई करने जा रही है ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Regarding Bihar the case is really for South Bihar. Anyway, the hon. Member has asked about projects in North Bihar. With regard to the Gandak Project, I have already submitted that we are going to have allotment of substantial additional amount this year so that the work may be accelerated. In regard to the East Kosi Project, it is well