

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour where we are expected to elicit some information. Mr. Gupta's allegation naturally brought a retort. Now your allegation will again bring some noise. I think both the allegations Mr. Gupta's allegation and yours—cancel each other. There are too many insinuations. That means, there is no more information necessary and only charging and counter-charging remain. On Bharat Sewak Samaj, 50 people want to put questions. I will safely go to the next question. Mr. Sinha.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Manubhai Patel

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. I have already called the next question.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Sir, he has cast an aspersion on the members of the Public Accounts Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Sir, I am going to move a privilege motion against him.

Offer by Foreign countries for Import of Fertilizers

*244. **SHRI R. K. SINHA:** Will the Minister of FOOD & AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any offers from the foreign countries for the import of fertilisers have not been accepted; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not accepting them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI R. K. SINHA: I understand that there are some African countries and some countries in South-East Asia who have requested for import of fertilisers from India. Fertilisers from part of the development plans of some of the Asian countries. By the help of the Government of India some of the neighbouring countries might be benefited.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We are purchasing fertilisers from various parts of the world. They are purchased under some credit made available by various countries, in some cases some loan facilities have been given to us and in certain cases it is done under barter agreements. I do not know what the hon. Member has in mind when he refers to some Asiatic countries.

SHRI R. K. SINHA: I have read in papers that certain countries are desirous of importing fertilisers from India. There are certain things which we import from outside countries, but as a policy of help to neighbouring countries we do give them to certain African countries. That is why I have put this question.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As is well known, we ourselves are not in a position to meet our requirements and we are importing from other countries. When our production programme goes up, later on we may be in a position to help some countries. But at the moment I do not think any substantial assistance by way of supply of fertiliser to other countries, is possible from us.

श्री बाजं करमंडीज : अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्राज के ही प्रश्नबाग में हिन्दुस्तान लिम्क लिमिटेड के चेयरमैन श्री रघुनाथ सिंह का बयान है कि हम करोड़ों रुपये का फर्टिलाइजर देग में आयात करते हैं जब कि कई हजार या लाख टन फर्टिलाइजर उनके कारखानों की धोर से बनाया हुआ ऐसे ही सड़ रहा है तां क्या सरकार इस बात का खुलासा कर सकेगी

कि क्यों यहां बनाया हुआ फटिलाइजर सड़ाया जा रहा है और विदेशी मुद्रा खर्च करके बाहर से फटिलाइजर मंगाया जा रहा है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: The hon. Member has drawn our attention to an important point. But may I say that our approach is the same. That means, our first priority is to use our indigenous production, to give importance to that. The statement to which the hon. Member is referring is in regard to some phosphatic fertilisers which were not lifted a few months earlier. Normally between January and June fertiliser requirement is always at a lower level because that is not the season. After the onset of monsoons for khariff and rabi crops there is always a bigger demand, and we are taking care to see that whatever stocks are available in our indigenous factories they are utilised. In the case of this particular phosphatic fertiliser, we had originally planned to import about 3,30,000 tonnes. But taking into consideration our indigenous production that is coming up we have reduced our actual import programme to 1.3 lakh tonnes and from January onwards we have not placed any orders for imports.

श्री रणधीर सिंह : स्पीकर महोदय, खाद किसान की जमीन जान है। जैसे पानी जरूरी है उस से कहीं ज्यादा जरूरी खाद है। मिनिस्टर साहब को मालूम है कि ग्राम तौर पर गरीब किसान के लिए खाद जिस कीमत पर मिलती है वह उसकी ताकत के बाहर है उसका खरीदना। तां गवर्नमेंट के पास कोई स्पेसिफिक स्कीम है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा खाद किसान को मिले, थोड़ी सी कीमत पर मिले और उसकी जो मांग है वह पूरी हो, यह कब हो पायेगा ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: May I assure the hon. Member that for the first time in our country a situation has come up wherein we are

in a very comfortable position to meet all the requirements of fertilisers of various types, whether they are nitrogenous, phosphatic or potash. As far as this is concerned there is no problem. In regard to the prices, it is true that the present level of prices in our country is comparatively high, but unless we develop the indigenous production on a very big scale, by employing modern technology, it will not be possible to solve the problem. This point was explained on a previous occasion by the hon. Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA: In view of the considerable fall in world prices for urea and ammonia phosphate, may I know what was the average price of purchase of imported fertilisers in the recent months, compared to that what was the price of the Indian product and at what price we are marketing it to the farmers? Secondly, may I know whether the import of fertilisers is now being negotiated on the basis of inviting global tenders or is being done by negotiations?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: It is true that there has been a world-wide fall in the price of fertilisers and we naturally got advantage of it. For instance, last year we purchased ammonium sulphate at the rate of \$30 a tonne and this year we could secure some quantities at the rate of \$20 a tonne. The range varies. In the case of urea too prices have come down from \$85 to \$75. The purchases are from different countries and naturally the prices differ from country to country.

In the USA and Canada the tender system is in vogue. In other countries we negotiate but there is a ceiling prescribed; beyond a particular level we do not purchase from particular countries. For the East European countries, the rupee payment area, we have a ceiling prescribed now. But the world level of prices is always taken into consideration while making purchases.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA: What was the cost of production in India and the price at which it is being marketed to farmers?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Adequate notice will be required to answer this question.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Sir, there was a mistake. This question should have been sent to the Ministry of Supply; instead it has been sent to this Ministry.

श्री मधु लिमये : दूसरे प्रश्नों के बारे में भी ऐसा ही हुआ है। मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार जूट के प्रश्न के बारे में भी यही स्थिति है।

श्री प्रेम चन्द्र वर्मा : मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि 31 मार्च, 1968 को फटिलाइजर कारपोरेशन और फटिलाइजर की फैक्ट्रियों की जो बैलेंस शीट बनी है, उसमें स्टॉक के फिजिकल वैरीफिकेशन के बाद एक साल से अधिक का जो फटिलाइजर इन के पास स्टॉक में पड़ा है और सड़ रहा है, उसकी कितनी क्वान्टिटी है तथा उसकी वैल्यू कितनी है? उन बैलेंस शीटों में क्या यह चीज दिखालाई गई है या नहीं दिखालाई गई है?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: This question will have to go to the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR: Is it a fact that at present in the USA nearly 1 million tonnes of fertilisers are lying unsold and the fertiliser producers there want to dump it in India? May I also know whether in spite of sharp protests from the Fertiliser Corporation of India the work of the expansion of the Trombay fertiliser plant has been given to American contractors?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I am concerned with the first part of the question only. May I tell the hon. Member that this impression that large stocks of fertilisers are lying unutilised

is totally incorrect; in fact, we should be happy and I would like the House to appreciate the fact, because in the old days the complaint was that we were not in a position to make fertilisers available to the farmers in time . . . (Interruption).

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You have not understood the question. He talked of stocks lying in USA, not here.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We are not concerned with stocks in USA; we are concerned with our own purchases.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR: They want to dump it in India.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Whatever might be the intention of other countries, as far as we are concerned, we decide our policy by taking our interest, requirement etc. into consideration. We are taking care to see that our requirements are fully met and the seasonal availability is there.

श्री रघुबीरसिंह शास्त्री : भारत में जितना फटिलाइजर हम बाहर से मंगाते हैं, उमका 60 प्रतिशत अमरीका से आता है, तथा उमका 50 प्रतिशत हमें अमरीकन जहाजों से लाना पड़ता है, अमरीकन जहाजों ने 49 प्रतिशत किगये बढ़ा दिये हैं, जिसके कारण अमरीकी खाद हमको बहुत महंगा पड़ता है। इसके मुकाबले में जापान का खाद मस्ता पड़ता है, क्योंकि वहाँ के जहाजों का किगया कम है। ऐसी स्थिति में आप जापान का खाद क्यों नहीं मंगाते हैं?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We are purchasing from Japan too.

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: The Government of India sent some representatives to Japan and other countries for arranging long-term import of fertilisers but we had occasion to visit two or three fertiliser factories and we were told that large amount of stock had been piling up there. How does Government recon-

cile the situation? On the one hand, there is a shortage of fertilisers in the country and, on the other, the distribution is not so efficiently organised with the result that at some places there is an accumulation of stocks in the fertiliser factories when in other parts of the country there is a serious dearth of fertilisers even for supplying the needs of farmers. What does Government propose to do to meet the situation?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: At the moment, as I explained, in all parts of the country, supplies are very satisfactory. Availability is there. We have assured the State Governments that if in any part of the country there is any shortfall in supply, we are prepared to supply. There has been no complaint from any State Government about short supply. May I assure the hon. lady . . .

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO S. DESHMUKH: There may not be complaints from State Governments. But the question is whether there are complaints from the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure Mrs. Tarkeshwari Sinha has capacity to understand whether she has had the answer or not.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, दूमरों को भी उत्तरों में दिलचस्पी होती है।

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: About the availability, there should be no problem. About some of the stocks lying in some factories, I have already met that point. As far as nitrogenous fertiliser and other fertiliser is concerned, there is no problem. There was some problem in regard to phosphatic fertiliser. But January to June is not the period in our country when fertiliser demand is there. So, the stocks accumulated during that period. We are trying to see that the stocks are lifted during the kharif and rabi seasons. We have

also indicated to factories which have some difficulties that we are prepared to see that their off-take is coordinated and some of the State Governments are coming forward to accept that fertiliser.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सवाल यह है कि कितने कारखानों में फर्टिलाइजर बेकार पड़ा है, उसका जवाब नहीं दिया है ?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. Shri. O. P. Tyagi.

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : क्या यह सच है कि फूड जोन बने होने के कारण अनाज की कीमतें कम होती चली जा रही हैं, किसान को अनाज का पूरा दाम नहीं मिलता है। इसके साथ ही साथ खाद के दाम भी बढ़ते चले जा रहे हैं। अनाज के गिरते हुए दामों को देखकर किसान अब खाद की और ज्यादा आकर्षित नहीं हो रहा है। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या सरकार अनाज के दामों को ध्यान में रख कर खाद के दामों को सीमित रखेगी उसको सबमिडी देगी ताकि वह उस का प्रयोग कर सके ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As far as subsidy is concerned, it is not possible for the Government. The resources position does not allow the subsidy on a big scale. In the initial period, when the demand was not there, some subsidy element was provided so that fertiliser can become popular with the farmers. Now there is so much demand that it is not considered necessary. Fertilisers have become popular. As I have already mentioned, this question of subsidy depends on the availability of resources. As I was saying, we are anxious to see that fertilisers are available at reasonable price to the farmers. But this point has been repeatedly explained by the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals that unless we employ new technology and large-scale production, there is no short-cut solution.

to the problem. At the moment, the prices which are being given to the farmers are so remunerative that I do not think the farmers are not in a position to purchase the fertiliser.

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कई मुल्लाओं में मुर्गी हराय हो जाती है। मैं मन्त्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ—कई रसोइये मिल कर जब रसोई तैयार करते हैं तो गड़बड़ हो जाती है। यह आयात का प्रश्न है, लेकिन उत्तर आप दे रहे हैं। जो सप्लीमेन्ट्री मैं कहूंगा, आप कहेंगे कि यह तो उनका सप्लीमेन्ट्री नहीं है। सरकार ने एक नीति बनाई थी पोटाश की खाद को छोड़ कर, क्योंकि वह आपको पूर्वी जर्मनी से मंगानी पड़ती है रूपी-येमेन्ट के जरिये, उसके बनाने की कोई स्कीम नहीं है, टाटा की एक स्कीम है, लेकिन उसमें थोड़ा बनेगा, बाकी जो दो खार्वें हैं नाइट्रोजन और फोस्फोर वाली—उनके लिये आपने एक नीति बनाई थी कि जो फैक्टरियाँ किसी कोलाबोरेशन से लगने वाली हैं, उनको बाजार बनाने के लिये खाद आयात करने की इजाजत दी जायगी और उस नीति के अनुसार खाद आयात होकर यहाँ आया और बाजार बनाने के लिये बिक रहा था। क्या वह नीति अब सरकार ने छोड़ दी है, क्या उन लोगों को आयात करने दिया जायेगा जिनको हमेशा आयात करना है और कोई फैक्टरी खड़ी नहीं करनी है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: This question may be put to the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals.

SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA: May I know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that there has been a constant complaint that in some parts of the country fertiliser is being sold in black-market? I would like to know what steps Government took in the past to check this illegal transaction for which the farmer has to pay a price higher than the one fixed by the

Government, and if such a situation arises in future, what steps Government will have to prevent it.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We have well-coordinated distribution arrangements now. The State Governments . . . (*Interruptions*).

SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA: I want to know what specific steps Government took. I do not want a general reply.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We make allotments to the State Governments and it is entirely the responsibility of the State Governments how to distribute.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: He said, they have well-coordinated arrangements. For black-marketing?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: If the contention is that there is black-marketing now in fertiliser, I do not think that it is justified. If he can bring specific instances to my notice, I will look into them. The allegation that there is black-marketing now in fertiliser is baseless.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: To an earlier question by Mr. Patodia, the hon. Minister replied that, instead of global tenders, they got tenders for supply of fertilisers from Canada and Australia, and that they directly negotiate with East-European countries. I want to know whether the price that you pay for fertiliser purchases in Canada and U.S.A., together with the freight that you have to pay on it is cheaper or the price at which you purchase fertiliser from East European countries is cheaper. Which is cheaper? Are there no other countries available from which we can have fertiliser even at cheaper rates and which are nearer to India and for which we have to pay less freight?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO): With your permission, I

would say that purchases are made from the United States and Canada with aid . . .

SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA: How does he come in?

MR. SPEAKER: Is the hon. Minister of Works, Housing and Supply ready to answer all the questions because demands will come later on? If he is answering now, he must be prepared to answer all the questions.

SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA: The Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals produces, the Ministry of Food & Agriculture allots, the State Governments distribute, the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply purchases. So, fertiliser is being made a football.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is happening?

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening, none of us know.

श्री रवि राय : तो फिर पटौदिया और भारती जी के प्रश्नों का उत्तर भी उनको देना चाहिये था ।

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: If you allow now, in future also when such situations arise will you call upon the other Minister to reply?

MR. SPEAKER: He is making it a convention . . .

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: I said, 'with your permission'. Only if you permit me, will I answer.

MR. SPEAKER: He can just help the other Minister.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Before I go to the merits of the question, I would like to say this. When this question was addressed to our Ministry, we requested your Secretariat to see that this question was transferred to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply because purchases are made by that Ministry. But it was too late and

the Secretariat thought that it might not be possible to transfer. I say this because the House should know the position.

In regard to purchases, we purchase some fertilisers even by issuing global tenders. About United States and Canada, as I have already explained, we issued tenders there also. But it is not incumbent on us that we must necessarily accept all tenders. We examine the level of prices in various parts of the world and in the United States and Canada, and if it is advantageous to us, then we commit ourselves for purchases.

As far as comparative prices are concerned, I will require notice.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I will want to know which is cheaper. We are concerned with India. I want to know whether India has to pay for purchases from USA and Canada or for purchases from East European countries.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I will require notice for that.

श्री रवि राय : इसमें भी नोटिस की जरूरत है ?

SHRI F. GOPALAN: May I know whether it is a fact that it is because of the nature of the loans or credits that we are getting from certain countries like the USA and the World Bank, that is, in the form of tied loans or credits, that we are compelled to import fertilisers at higher prices than what prevail in the international market?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Nobody can compel us to import fertilisers. Because we need it, we are trying to find out sources of supply from various parts of the world, and our purchases are not confined to any one country. We purchase from all countries; we purchase from Japan, East European countries, West Europe, America and Canada.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: May I make one submission? After all, we are interested in getting answers to our questions and in getting information, Government are collectively responsible. Therefore, it must be possible for any Minister when he is dealing with a particular question, even though the question is not addressed to him originally, if he is present, and if he is prepared to answer, to answer it in the House, and we must have that. That is what I would submit.

MR. SPEAKER: I have absolutely no objection. But on the next occasion when the hon. Member demands and the hon. Minister is not in a position to answer, there should be no objection to it.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: If he is prepared to answer the question, then in that case, we may get the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: I have absolutely no objection. I agree that Government are collectively responsible, but next time, the hon. Member should not say 'No, I do not want this Minister to answer, but I want some other Minister to answer'.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: I do not want to take any Minister by surprise.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with the hon. Member that Government are collectively responsible. But on the next occasion, if the hon. Minister says that he is not in a position to answer, then hon. Members should not demand that he should answer.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: In this case, the hon. Minister was good enough to get up and answer but you had stopped him.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: We shall follow it next time.

SHRI R. K. AMIN: Government have appointed an Agricultural Prices Commission to fix the prices of agricultural commodities with a view to stabilising the prices, but there is no commission to fix the prices of the inputs of the farmers

and there is no co-ordination between the prices of the agricultural commodities and the prices of the inputs. Are Government thinking of instituting any commission to stabilise the prices of the inputs of the farmers and to effect coordination between the prices of the outputs as well as the inputs with a view to obtain some parity between the two?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: This is far beyond the purview of the main question.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: The hon. Minister was prepared to answer my question earlier. If I write to you or if I write to him, I hope he can answer this question later.

MR. SPEAKER: I have absolutely no objection.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: Does the hon. Minister agree?

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: Yes, he may write to me and I shall reply.

SHRI R. K. AMIN: Why is he avoiding my question? My question has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

Special Area Development Scheme for Orissa

*246. SHRI A. DIPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many representations have been made to the Central Government by the Government of Orissa for the financial assistance for special area development scheme for Phulbani, Bolangir and Kalahandi Districts in that State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Central Government have not taken any decision in that regard, and