LOK SABHA

Monday, 29th July, 1968/7 Sravana. 1890 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New Fertilizer Factory at Nangal

*151. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizer Corporation of India is planning to put up a new fertilizer factory at Nangal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have given its approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH): (a) The Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. propose to expand the existing fertilizer capacity at Nangal.

(b) The proposal has not yet been finalized by the Corporation.

(c) Does not arise.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्ट्री ने पहले यह तजवीज की थी कि यह प्लांट मीठापुर में लगाया जाये और उसके सम्बन्ध में यहां काफी चर्चा हुई । उस के बाद नांगल का प्रोपोजल आया । समझ में नहीं आता कि सरकार इस मामले में निश्चित क्यों नहीं है और क्यों देर कर रही है । जब हरियाणा की नीड सब से ज्यादा है और उसकी तरफ से मांग की आ रही है, तो यह प्लाट हरियाणा में क्यों नहीं लगाया जा रहा है ?

पेट्रोलियम और रसायन तथा समाज कल्याण मंत्री (श्री अशोक मेहता) : मीठापुर का कारखाना प्राइवेट सेक्टर का कारखाना है । जहां तक पब्लिक सेक्टर का सवाल है, पिछले हफ्ते मैंने बताया था कि फर्टिलाइजर कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया के सामने चार मुख्तलिफ़ प्राजेक्ट्स हैं, जिन पर सोच-विचार हो रहा है और जिनमें नांगल एक्सपेंशन का प्राजेक्ट भी है ।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : यह कहा जाता है, और यह मान लिया गया है, कि प्राइवेट सेक्टर में सौ रुपये लगा कर 38 रुपए बचाए जा रहे हैं । और पब्लिक सेक्टर में सौ रुपये लगा कर 11 रुपये बचाये जा रहे हैं तो फिर सिर्फ़ आइडियोलोजी, वाद या इज्म की वजह से क्यों इस देश को पीछे धकेला जा रहा है ?

श्री अशोक मेहता : इसमें न तो आइडियालोजी का सवाल है और न कोई और सवाल है । हमारे पास कितने रीसोर्सिज है और किस तरह हम उनका उपयोग कर सकते हैं, इस बुनियाद पर इस सिलसिले में काम होता है और प्राजेक्ट्स वगैरह बनाए जाते हैं । मुझे मालूम नहीं है कि जो आंकड़े माननीय सदस्य ने दिये हैं, वे कहां से आये हैं । ये हमारे आंकड़े नहीं है ।

SHRI R. BARUA: May I know whether due to old machinery the cost of production of fertiliser in Nangal is not at par with the international market price and, in fact, it is higher; if so, what steps are being taken to modernise the whole thing so that we can have cheaper production?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: It is not a question of one particular machinery or another. It is a small plant and it is based upon a particular process which saves almost the entire import content because it is based upon the use of electricity. What is being proposed or what is under consideration is that that plant be expanded and with the expansion of the plant we expect that the cost of production as a whole will come down.

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : मंत्री महोदय ने यह बताया है कि नांगल का यह प्लांट बिजली पर बेस्ड है । जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है, बिजली की कमी की वजह से यह प्लांट कम चला है ग्रौर पीछे प्राडक्शन भी कम हुग्रा है । ग्रब सरकार ने इसको बढ़ाने का तय किया है । जो नये बांध बन रहे हैं ग्रौर जो पानी भाखरा में डायवर्ट किया जायेगा, उसकी वजह से जो शक्ति बढ़ेगी, क्या उससे ज्यादा बिजली ली जायेगी ? क्या सरकार ज्यादा बिजली ग्राने की बात सोच कर प्राडक्शन बढ़ाने जा रही है, या जो एक्सपेंशन किया जायेगा, वह नेप्था बेस्ड होगा, ग्रगर नेप्था बेस्ड होगा, तो वह नेप्था कहां से मिलेगा ?

श्री ग्रशोक मेहता : वह बिजली पर नहीं होगा । वह या तो नेप्था पर होगा या हैवी ग्रायल पर होगा । किस पर करना है, इसके बारे में ही सोच-विचार हो रहा है । इस के लिये हैवी ग्रायल जरूरी होगा या नेप्था, वह इंडियन ग्रायल कारपोरेशन की जिम्मेदारी होगी ग्रौर वह इसका इन्तजाम करेगा ।

SHRI D. C. SHARMA: The need of fertilisers in this country is most urgent and I do not understand why the Government is taking so long in expanding this factory. If it had been a new factory I would have thought that there was some delay in it. But why is Government taking so long in expanding a factory? May I also know from the hon. Minister when this factory will be modernised, expanded and when it will start functioning?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: I have pointed out on previous occasions that we have under construction five fertiliser plants in the public sector just now. Three more have already been cleared. That means eight are already cleared for which steps are being taken. What further plants can be taken up is under study by the Fertiliser Corporation of India. I cannot say just now when this decision will be taken because this involves an investment of anything between Rs. 30 crores to Rs. 40 crores with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 14 crores. All these matters, as I pointed out earlier, require time to study and I am afraid the hon. Member will have to wait till a decision is taken.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: The hon. Minister just now said that the the expansion of the plant at Nangal is not to be based on electricity but but it is going to be based on naphtha or heavy oil. In view of the fact that Nangal has no ready-made stores of naptha or heavy oil and they will have to be brought from elsewhere to Nangal, which is a bit interior part of the country, is it wise to put almost a new plant which is going to be naphthabased, there. May I know whether a more suitable site is being considered which might produce fertiliser at comparatively cheaper rates?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: This matter has also been considered. As a matter of fact, the Government of Punjab had come forward with two alternative proposals. They are interested in the plant being set up somewhere else. This matter also the Fertiliser Corporation is considering very carefully. But, at present, from the data that is available it appears Nangal expansion would cost less than setting up a plant somewhere else. But I can assure the hon. Member that all these matters are very much

the concern and under consideration of the Fertiliser Corporation of India.

SHRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Before going in for new plants as envisaged in this question, are Government able to tell us whether the construction of the present plant is going according to schedule; if not, may I know what are the main drawbacks or deadlocks that stand in the way of their going as per the programme?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: I would say, broadly, the answer is 'yes'. But it is not that always it is going according to schedule because of various difficulties. In a particular case it took us about one year to get the land. In another case there have been certain other difficulties.

श्री रणधीर सिंह : यह हमारी बदकिस्मती है कि चन्डीगढ़ और भाखरा-नांगल को लेकर पंजाब और हरियाणा में लड़ाई चल रही है। मुझे खदशा है कि नांगल के कारखाने की एक्सपेंशन के बाद खाद के सिलसिले में भी उनमें लड़ाई होगी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या गवर्नमेंट नांगल फ़र्टिलाइज़र फैक्टरी को एक्सपेंड करने के बजाये उस रुपये से हरियाणा में एक फ़र्टिलाइज़र फैक्टरी लगाने पर विचार कर रही है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री हरदयाल देवगुण।

M|s. Dodsal (P) Limited

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*152. SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN:
SHRI BABURAO PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number and dates of raids carried out for suspected breaches of foreign exchange on M|s. Dodsal (P) Ltd. and its associated companies and particulars of the articles seized and evidence found and action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): On information that M|s. Dodsal (P) Ltd. were indulging in violation of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, the premises of the company and its associate companies, and the residential premises of some persons connected with the companies at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Bangalore, Baroda and Rourkela were searched by the officers of the Enforcement Directorate on the 9th May, 1968. The total number of premises searched was 29. Later, on the 4th June, 1968, two more premises were also searched.

The articles seized as a result of these searches are:—

(i) some documents;

(ii) foreign exchange in the form of travellers' cheques and currency notes—U.S. dollars 60 and Deutsche Marks 3,100.

(iii) One key.

The investigations in the matter are in progress and it will not be in public interest to disclose at this stage the nature of the evidence gathered from the scrutiny of the seized documents. After the investigations have been completed, necessary action will be taken as provided in the law.

श्री हरदयाल देवगुण : क्या मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो कागज मिले हैं उनके आधार पर 1956 से जब हमारे वित्त मंत्री उद्योग और वाणिज्य मंत्री भी थे और बाद में वित्त मंत्री बने, अब तक इस बीच में कितने इण्डस्ट्रियल लाइसेंस इस कम्पनी को मिले हैं, कितने इम्पोर्ट लाइसेंस मिले हैं, और कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा इनको मिली है ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : सम्मानित सदस्य नोटिस देंगे तो सब तफसील दूंगा।

श्री हरदयाल देवगुण : इन कागजों के आधार पर इनकम टैक्स/वैल्थ टैक्स और