

Fertilizer Plant for Madhya Pradesh

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*233. { Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:
 Shri Y. D. Singh:
 Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether any negotiations between the Fertilizer Corporation of India and the Government of Madhya Pradesh over the question of finding out a suitable site for the fertilizer plant in the public sector for Madhya Pradesh have been held; and

(b) if so, which site has been selected?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After investigating a number of sites suggested by the State Government, the choice has been narrowed down to two alternative sites from which the final selection will be made shortly.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: What will be the installed capacity of this proposed plant?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): The original proposal was for 50,000 tons of nitrogen-fertiliser equal to that. But it is under consideration whether it could not be stepped up to 1,00,000 tons.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is the Minister aware that some years ago Government selected and announced the site for this fertiliser plant, namely, near Itarsi in Madhya Pradesh? Is he also aware that the present proposal to change the site was dictated mainly, if not wholly, by partisan considerations because in the last general elections....

Mr. Speaker: He is making imputations. He should put the question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is the Minister aware of the widespread

public suspicion in that area, in the whole of Madhya Pradesh, that the Government's proposal to change the site now has been dictated by partisan considerations because in the last general elections 7 out of 9 Congress candidates in that area in Hoshangabad and Narsingpur were defeated?

Mr. Speaker: The last portion is not relevant and would not be part of the question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is he aware of widespread suspicion, discontent and even indignation....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Cannot the suspicion be suppressed a little?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The licence was issued to a private party to locate a fertiliser factory near Itarsi. But that party has expressed his inability to proceed with this project.

That is why it is being taken up in the public sector. The process of manufacture has also been changed. It is to be based on coal. Therefore, the availability of coal near-about will be the basis for the choice of the site.

श्री प्र० सि० सहगल : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश में फरटीलाइजर प्लांट बनाने के लिये कितनी जगहों की तजवीजें की गई थीं ।

Mr. Speaker: How many places were considered for the location of this plant?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Previously Katni, Ujjain and Itarsi were considered.

Shri Bade: May I know how many sites have been examined after the cancellation of the Itarsi plan?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Quite a number of sites were considered. Just now the choice lies between Katni and Birsinghpur.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know how many times the attempt has been made to change this location from

place to place in Madhya Pradesh, and during what period?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As far as I am aware, originally as I have already stated, to the private sector body licence was issued based on Itarsi. Now, as I have already stated, we have to change the process of manufacture, and the raw material will be coal. Therefore, the coal area will have to be selected. I am really not aware of all the other considerations which the hon. Members are mentioning just now.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Is it a fact that....

Mr. Speaker: I am not allowing a second question now.

Shri Daji: By what time will this plant be constructed, and when will it go into production?

Mr. Speaker: Let the site be selected first.

श्री कछवाय : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश की साल भर की खाद की कितनी मांग है और उस को कहाँ से पूरा किया जाता है ?

Shri P. C. Sethi: I require separate notice for that.

Cloth Prices

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*234. { **Shri Umanath:**
Shri Narendra Singh Mahida:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are numerous complaints from the consumers that stamped prices of cloth are generally very high and the consumers are made to pay the higher prices in the belief that the stamped prices are incontrovertible; and

(b) if so, what check is being exercised by Government to save the consumers from such exploitation by the mill-owners?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. In view however of the present emergency, certain measures to maintain prices of essential commodities including cotton textiles have been taken. These measures have been indicated in the statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on the 10th November, 1962.

Shri Umanath: May I know whether any special measures have been contemplated by the Government to keep down prices of medium and coarse cloth which are largely consumed by the public?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes, Sir. We have taken steps as mentioned in the statement to increase production of coarse and lower medium cloth by 300 million yards, and again 10 per cent of the production of every mill will be made available to consumer and co-operative societies, and further measures of price fixation as have been mentioned here have been taken.

Shri Umanath: May I know how far these measures have been enforced already in the various States?

Shri Manubhai Shah: This was a statement on the 10th that the various measures requiring legal remedies have been undertaken, but I may assure the House that there has been no rise in prices in all these varieties including coarse and lower medium at all.

श्री बेरवा : क्या यह सत्य है कि कपड़े के दुकानदार ग्राहकों से छपे हुए मूल्य से ज्यादा लेने लगे हैं ?

Mr. Speaker: Are the retailers charging more than the stamped price even?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I have had occasion to reply that even during Divali and Dasara days this time no complaints were received. Naturally