

Shri A. P. Jain: What are the targets of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilisers in the Third Plan, and to what extent, are they expected to be achieved?

Shri Alagesan: The target was 8 lakh tons. I do not have the break-up into nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilisers.

Shri A. P. Jain: Nitrogenous is 8 lakhs and phosphatic 4 lakhs. They are separate. It is not a question of break-up.

Shri Alagesan: The total production is very much below that.

Shri A. P. Jain: How much of the target has been fulfilled? What are the expectations?

Shri Alagesan: The present estimate is that it will be about 4 to 5 lakh tons.

श्री बलजीत सिंह : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि विन-विन खाद फैक्टरियों में उत्पादन दुगुना करने का प्रोग्राम है और कब तक पूरा कर दिया जायेगा ।

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir): There is no question of doubling the capacity. The capacity, as I indicated during my reply to the debate on the Demands for Grants, is being increased. We are taking special measures for increasing the capacity at Sindri. There is a proposal to increase the capacity at Nangal. We are also increasing the capacity at FACT and taking steps about Rourkela.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Considering the fact that a number of private firms licensed to produce fertiliser have not done so, whatever be the reasons, has Government assessed the unused capacity and enhanced production in the public sector to an equivalent extent?

Shri Alagesan: As I said, when a licence in the private sector was surrendered, we have ourselves stepped in. There are certain private sector factories which are going slow. There are two or three other licensees who have asked for time. We have given time to them. In the meanwhile, we have appointed a Planning group. They are going into the matter of taking up new projects.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Have Government assessed the unutilised capacity?

Conversion of Oil Companies into Rupee Companies

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Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 651 on the 18th December, 1963 and state:

(a) whether the tentative proposals made by Burmah Shell, Esso and Caltex Oil Companies for conversion of distributing companies into Rupee Companies have since been examined; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Examination of these proposals is still continuing.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Ramachandra Ulaka: May I know whether the oil companies have also made any proposal regarding Indian participation in their equity share capital, if so, the nature thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The question was about the proposals by Burmah-Shell, Esso and Caltex for conversion of the distribution companies, and in this there were some suggestions that these may be converted into rupee companies and

equity capital would be offered to Indians, but apart from ESSO, none of the others has given any detailed or specific proposals.

Shri Ramachandra Ulaka: May I know whether Government have any proposal under consideration to nationalise these oil companies; if so, the details thereof?

Shri Humayun Kabir: According to the Industrial Policy Resolution, it has been decided that all future capacity will be in the public sector, but the Industrial Policy Resolution also provides that existing firms will be allowed to continue, and in certain cases under special conditions, they might be even given some permission to expand. So, the question of nationalisation does not arise at this stage.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know why Burmah-Shell and Caltex oil companies are not coming forward with their proposals to convert themselves into rupee companies? What are the factors which are inhibiting them from doing so?

Shri Humayun Kabir: This was an offer made by the companies themselves. They initiated the proposal and said that they would like to convert them. Therefore, I cannot say what is holding them back, but I can only suggest that perhaps they want to link it up with the question of expanding their capacity, and there we are considering the whole question. There is not any likelihood of giving them any expanded capacity at present.

Shri Dhuleshwar Meena: May I know whether these oil companies have incorporated a marketing organisation as an Indian company; if so, the details thereof?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The question was that they wanted to convert them into Indian companies. So,

obviously they have not incorporated them as Indian companies.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that Government's attempts to probe into the sources of supply, real cost and margin of profit of these foreign oil companies are being regularly and repeatedly foiled by them, may I know whether this conversion into a rupee company would facilitate the probe, or this proposal has been mooted by the oil companies only to have their market assured in this country?

Shri Humayun Kabir: My hon. friend wants me to tell about the psychology of these companies.

Shri Hem Barua: No, not the psychology.

Shri Humayun Kabir: I am afraid I do not know what the motive is.

Shri Hem Barua: I want to know whether they have made this proposal....

Mr. Speaker: The last sentence, the last part of the sentence, precludes me from allowing a further question, because he says he cannot give that information.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What is the relationship between the expansion programme and the conversion into a rupee company, and what is Government's own attitude in the matter?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I thought I had indicated that the Government's view was that expansion would be in the public sector, and especially since we are starting refineries of our own, the question of any expansion for them cannot be considered till we have taken decisions and established our own public sector refineries.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What is the relationship between the two?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.