

cerned, I do not think there is anything like that. If still there is a danger from this, we will sit together and take steps.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: At present, the danger to the refinery due to erosion or flood is not so serious as from heavy downpour. When the level of the bed of the river is high, water from the refinery does not flow out and it floods the refinery area. This happened two years ago and all the work had to be stopped. Have Government taken any suitable steps in this direction?

Shri Iqbal Singh: For that purpose, we have raised the level of the Barauni refinery by 1.6 metres.

Shri Ranga: Even then it becomes inundated.

Price of Fertilizers

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- *452. **Dr. M. M. Das:**
Dr. P. N. Khan:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of fertilizers manufactured by the Fertilizer Corporation of India has gone up by 25 per cent after devaluation; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give subsidy for maintaining the pre-devaluation price of fertilizers?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Iqbal Singh): (a) and (b). Although the cost of production of fertilizers manufactured by the Fertilizer Corporation have gone up consequent on devaluation, the selling prices have not been raised. Government have decided to give suitable subsidy to compensate for the increase in cost of production due to devaluation. The details are being worked out.

Dr. M. M. Das: Are Government aware that even before devaluation, Indian fertiliser prices were double the American fertiliser prices and 2 times the Japanese prices? If so, will the hon. Minister kindly make an inquiry? What are the reasons for this abnormally high price of Indian manufactured fertilisers?

Shri Iqbal Singh: As far as the price of Indian manufactured fertilisers is concerned, compared to other countries, there is some difference....

Shri Ranga: How much?

Shri Iqbal Singh: There is a difference as between one country and another in respect of the availability of raw materials . . .

Shri Ranga: How much is it?

Shri Iqbal Singh: If he mentions the country, I can say how much.

An hon. Member: Japan.

Shri Iqbal Singh: As far as imported fertilisers are concerned, the Indian manufactured fertilisers are less costlier than the imported ones.

Mr. Speaker: He says that the cost as compared to one country is double here.

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Alagesan): I shall give some figures. The pool price in India of ammonium sulphate is Rs. 366 per ton.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: The question relates to manufacture price. He is giving the pool price.

Shri Alagesan: I shall give the manufacture price also. The cost of production is much less. It is Rs. 286. The imported price of ammonium sulphate is Rs. 420. It is more than the pool price here. Similarly in the case of another fertiliser, urea, the pool price is Rs. 610 and the imported price is Rs. 848—I am leaving fractions out. So it is not so.

Dr. M. M. Das: Are Government aware of the fact that whereas the Sindri factory is situated upon 6,000 acres of land, a similar factory with similar capacity of production in western countries is situated upon 30 acres of land? Also, is it known to Government that whereas the Sindri factory has cost the Government of India more than Rs. 35 crores a similar factory with similar production costs in European countries and America one-third of it?

Shri Alagesan: It is true we have taken much too much of land for the fertiliser factory. But the House may recall that Sindri was the very first one that independent India built.

Shri Ranga: So, they made such a mess.

Shri Alagesan: They were rather liberal in taking land. Now, we do not repeat those things. For instance, for the fertiliser factory in Madras including the township, we will need not more than 300 or 400 acres. As the hon. Member says, it may be so in foreign countries that they occupy is much less and I agree with the hon. Member. Similarly the costs there are much less. We cannot compare ourselves with the advanced countries and compare their costs with ours. Certainly the costs here are much higher and we are trying by and by to reduce the capital cost.

Dr. P. N. Khan: What steps do Government propose to take to reduce the price of fertiliser and to cut the Fertiliser Corporation of India to proper size?

Shri Alagesan: I do not know what the hon. Member means by saying "to cut the F.C.I. to proper size." There are two or three factories which are producing fertiliser we are constructing two or three factories. A large organisation is useful in putting up new factories. I hope the hon. Member will appreciate the work of the F.C.I. The other question was: what steps are being taken to reduce

the costs of fertiliser? It is engaging our attention and in the new factories the latest processing methods and the latest technology are being adopted. That will also go to reduce the cost of production of fertiliser.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad: The hon. Minister says that experience has been gained since the first fertiliser factory was set up in the country. Do Government purpose to take measures to reduce the capital cost and also the acreage on which it is situated? It has to be mentioned to the House that a fertilised factory is here run with a thousand men while it could be run with the same capacity by thirty persons; though it is not possible to compare, I would like to know whether action has been initiated to reduce the capital cost and reduce the acreage also so that the cost of production may be brought down.

Shri Alagesan: I have already said that our new factories are taking much less land. You can yourself imagine the difference between a thousand acres and 400 acres. Then, the question raised was with reference to having a large number of workmen. It is a very pertinent question. Even in Sindri, we have been maintaining a very large number of personnel and we are trying to reduce it. But they could not be reduced overnight because it will create other problems, social problems, industrial unrest, etc. By and by we are trying to reduce the number.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी (निहार) :

उत्तर प्रदेश और भारत के अन्य कई प्रदेशों में मूत्र की स्थिति होने के बावजूद और वर्षों न होने के बावजूद भी जो फर्टिलाइजर भेजे जा रहे हैं उनका किसानों में काम बमल किया जा रहा है और दो-तीन अंज किसानों पर दबाव डाले रहे हैं कि वे फर्टिलाइजर लें जबकि उनके खेतों में कुछ होने नहीं जा रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे सुधारमूलक क्षेत्रों में सरकार किसानों को क्या सुविधाएँ

देगी श्री यह कि उन को फटिलाइजर्स जबर-दरती न दिये जाय इस के लिए क्या प्रबन्ध करेगी ?

श्री इकबाल सिंह : जहां तक फटिलाइजर्स के तक्सीम करने का ताल्लुक है वह तो हम बना कर एग्जीक्यूटिव मिनिस्ट्री को दे देते हैं और वह उस फटिलाइजर्स को स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को दे देते हैं और राज्य सरकारें उस फटिलाइजर को तक्सीम करती है लेकिन जहां तक इस बात का ताल्लुक है यथात फटिलाइजर्स ज्यादा दंते का तो उस के लिए कांशिश हों रही है कि और ज्यादा दिये जायं ।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : उसी पुराने मूल्य पर दे रहे हैं ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री स० च० सामन्त ।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : इनका सवाल कुछ और है और उनका जवाब कुछ और ही है ।

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that the total investment in the Sindri factory is more than Rs. 35 crores whereas in other countries it is only Rs. 8 crores for a comparable factory?

Mr. Speaker: That has been answered. ▲ .

Shri K. C. Pant: The Government has not been importing fertilisers at cheaper rates than the rates at which it sells them in the country and has thereby been making a profit on these transactions. May I know if the Government will continue to do this or operate these transactions on a no-profit-no-loss basis?

Shri Alagesan: That is why I mentioned the question of pool prices. The hon. Member wanted to know the cost of production. The cost of production is something different. The price that we pay to the fertiliser units also is different. Certain fertilisers are imported cheap and certain fertilisers are costlier, and that is why we have the pool arrangement.

Shri Subodh Hansda: If I have correctly understood, the Minister said that there is no proposal to increase the price of fertilisers after devaluation. How long do the Government propose to help this industry to survive by giving subsidy, and may I know whether this subsidy will be passed over to the consumers or whether the Government will bear it?

Shri Alagesan: The idea of the subsidy is to see that the fertilisers continue to sell at the old prices. That means the consumer continues to pay the same price which he paid before devaluation.

Shri R. S. Pandey: The price of a commodity is necessarily conditioned by its production. Since there is under production, the price of fertilisers is going up. I am happy to note that many fertiliser factories are coming up. At the same time, I am very unhappy to know that the Minister has given up the idea of putting up a plant at kosba. May I know what is the position? It is coal-based and you are not putting it up.

Mr. Speaker: That is a different question.

Shri Alagesan: I know the hon. Members hailing from Madhya Pradesh are very anxious about opening fertiliser factories in their State. It is true that last July we had to drop that proposal. But now we have revived it and we have asked the Fertiliser Corporation of India to prepare a project report and I think they will be able to take up the project.

श्री गुलशन : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि देश के ग्राम संकट को ध्यान में रख कर सरकार किसानों में उर्वरक के निये प्रति क्विंटल कितना मुनाफा कमाती है ।

श्री इकबाल सिंह : जैसा बतलाया गया है डिबैलूएशन के वावजूद कीमतें नहीं बढ़ाई गईं । जहां तक मुनाफे का मवाल है कुछ मुनाफा तो फैक्ट्री का हो सकता है क्योंकि

पैदावार की कीमत कुछ और है लेकिन इम्पॉर्टेड प्राइम ज्यादा होती है और दोनों प्राइम को बराबर किया जाता है। फेक्ट्री का इंक मुताबिक कहीं-कहीं मुनाफा होता है। लेकिन जहाँ तक कास्ट का ताल्लुक है, उनको उसी कीमत पर दी जाता है जिस पर पहले दी जाती थी। उनमें मुनाफा कमाने का सबाल नहीं है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कास्ट आफ प्राइवजन क्या है और किस कास्ट पर मन्वाई किया जाता है।

Shri Ranga: He asked one question and he gives another answer.

Mr. Speaker: That is why I asked him; he can give the cost of production and the cost at which it is supplied.

Shri Ranga: In regard to those specific manures.

श्री इकबाल सिंह : जहाँ तक अमोनियम सल्फेट का ताल्लुक है उसमें कास्ट 286 रु० है और पूल्ड प्राइम 366 रु० है। इसी ढंग से जहाँ तक यूरिया का ताल्लुक है, कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन 479 रु० है और जो पूल्ड प्राइम है वह 610 रु० है।

Shri Ranga: Is it not profiteering—Rs. 470, Rs. 610 and so on?

श्री गुलशन : मंत्री महोदय कह रहे हैं कि मुनाफा नहीं लेते हैं, लेकिन यह मुनाफा खोरी नहीं है तो फिर और क्या है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जवाब आ गया।

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Apart from giving a subsidy to maintain the present price-level even after devaluation, may I know whether there is any consideration before the Government to give a subsidy so that the fertilisers are available to the consumers at cheaper rates and at a reasonable level of prices?

श्री इकबाल सिंह : जहाँ तक मन्मिडी की बात है, अगर मन्मिडी दी गई तो वह इन लिये दी जायेगी कि हिन्दुस्तान में जो उनकी कीमत है दसगुना उनको बनाये रखा जाये। अगर इसके लिये मन्मिडी दी जायेगी तो वह 53 करोड़ रु० के करीब होगी।

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: He does not understand what the question is.

Mr. Speaker: He said that the subsidy that has been given is to the price of the fertilisers at the same value even after devaluation; though this might have gone much higher, this subsidy will go to the consumers and the farmers.

Shri Ranga: It goes to their own manufacturers.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: He has already admitted that. My question was whether they are considering to give a further subsidy so that the price of fertilisers remains at a reasonable level and may be available to the consumers?

Shri Alagesan: We do not have any such proposal under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Question 454. Question 453 has been transferred.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: What about Question 453, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: I have said it has been transferred to a different date.

Establishment of Fertiliser Plants with Foreign Collaboration

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- *454. **Shri Firodia:**
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri J. B. S. Bist:
Shri R. S. Pandey:
Shri P. C. Boroah:
Shri M. S. Murti:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign firms which have come forward with the