

Shri Manubhai Shah: I should say there was a slight over-statement in the hon Member's question and so I did not oppose it. There has been no 20 per cent rise at all. The import price is higher by 20 per cent than the internal price. Both have been pooled.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Then, what is the actual increase in the price of the fertilizer?

Shri Manubhai Shah: About 10 per cent.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: But that is wrong because in the rural areas the fertilizer is selling about Rs 39 and that is much more.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is the report appearing in the newspapers, that the Government will not be able to supply that much fertilizers as is required by the country, true?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As already indicated, there is a shortage of foreign exchange and all the 800,000 tons of ammonium sulphate required by the farmers and the agriculture department are not possible to be imported today. We are trying our best through bilateral agreement to supply as much as possible—almost 75 per cent of the requirements.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Location of Oil Refinery

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 S.N.Q. No. 2. {
 Shri Hem Barua:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
 Shri P. K. Deo:
 Shri Supakar:
 Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri Naushir Bharucha:
 Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:
 Shri Amjad Ali:
 Shri Rup Narain:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has since been taken regarding the location of the fifth oil refinery to be set up by the Assam Oil Company;

(b) if so, the site recommended;

(c) whether a copy of the Experts Committee report on the location of the oil refinery will be laid on the Table of the Sabha;

(d) whether Government have called for a project report for the proposed Oil refinery so far as Gauhati is concerned, and

(e) if so, what factors Government would consider as suitable to make the final decision of the location of the refinery?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b) No Oil Refinery is to be set up by the Assam Oil Company.

(c) The report of the Refinery Location Committee is still under examination of the Government and a copy of it will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in the due course.

(d) Government are making arrangements for getting a preliminary project study of the proposed Oil Refinery and according to our latest decision this study will be undertaken for Gauhati also.

(e) All such factors will be taken into consideration as would go to establish the first national refinery on a sound footing.

Shri Hem Barua: In spite of the fact that the Minister has said that there is no proposal for the Assam Oil Company to start an oil refinery there—which I did not put in but which was put in by the Notice Office ...

Mr. Speaker: Hon Member is not the only hon. Member who tabled this question. We have consolidated it.

Shri Hem Barua: Anyway, I did not mean it. Whatever it may be, is it not a fact that the Assam Oil Company is going to be a partner with the Government in the oil refinery business and is it not a fact that the Assam Oil Company has reacted most violently to locate it at Barauni and may I know if the Government is apprehensive of the fact that the Assam Oil Company may react still more violently if Gauhati is accepted as a site for the location of the refinery?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: My hon. friend is presuming that a refinery is going to be established with partnership or in association with the Assam Oil Company. There should be no such presumption. There is no decision of the Government to locate this refinery necessarily with the partnership of the Assam Oil Company and no such negotiations have yet commenced.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether it is a fact that the Assam Government has invited one French oil expert Mr Fritz and that he is going to submit a project report to the Assam Government for the location of a refinery at a suitable place and whether he has already expressed an opinion that Gauhati is a proper place? In that case, how does the Government propose to reconcile his report with its report?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Government has no information about this expert being appointed by the Assam Government as a consultant or adviser. We have also, just as my hon friend, read something in the newspapers.

Shri Hem Barua: Will the Government take Defence reasons into consideration as mentioned by the hon Prime Minister in Lok Sabha on the 15th July.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: One of the factors determining the location of the oil refinery—many factors will be

considered—will be the strategic consideration.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know whether the Central Government has absolutely no information as to whether the State Government has started to find out whether it is possible to have an oil refinery on their own in Assam or not?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: All that I have said is that we have read in the newspaper of a certain expert being consulted by the Assam Government to look into certain questions in this connection. We have no official information from the Assam Government that it is making some enquiries like that.

Shrimati Ha Falchoudhuri: May I know why Calcutta which was recommended as a site was given up?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Calcutta is surely one of the places recommended by the expert committee.

Shri D. C. Sharma: By what time will the project report be available?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: We are trying to get it as soon as possible but it may take three or four months.

Shri F. C. Borooah: If it is found that it is technically feasible and economically sound to locate the refinery at Gauhati will it be located there?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is difficult to answer hypothetical questions, if certain facts are favourable and some unfavourable. Our whole approach has of course been that the first thing is that Assam's claim should be fully considered and sympathetically considered in this matter. It comes first. One has to consider the economic sides and other sides which are obviously important. The whole thing will be considered when the report comes. It is very difficult for us to say any-

thing without adequate information about details. There is a difference of opinion even about facts and figures. Therefore, we should have proper facts and figures and then we can consider this in consultation with the Assam Government and others concerned.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that it is computed that India would annually consume 96 thousand tons of aviation spirit and the oil refinery is perhaps going to produce about 2,05,000 tons of aviation spirit, may I know if the Government would propose to make the refinery not an aviation-biased project but a kerosene-cum-diesel-cum-motor spirit biased project?

Mr. Speaker: These are all suggestions made.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I regret I am not an expert enough to answer these questions.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In view of the fact that petroleum is an exclusively Central subject, may I know why the State Governments are embarking upon project reports and the like?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): So far as the drawing up of a project report is concerned, it will be unfair to suggest that the Assam Government is embarking upon a project report. It is true that this news item has appeared that they are consulting a French consultant but that is not with the object of preparing a regular project report but to assist them in the preparation of their case because they are pressing that it should be located somewhere in Assam and they are trying to collect materials in support of that proposition.

Shri Hem Barua: When the State Minister makes a statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We are not going to press these things here and decide the issue here whether it sought to be in Assam or Calcutta or

elsewhere. The matter is being considered.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

अकाबा की खाड़ी

*६१७ श्री हनु नारायण : क्या प्रचल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सऊदी अरब ने अमरीका को एक ज्ञापन भेजा है जिसमें उसने कहा है कि वह अकाबा की खाड़ी में से गैर-अरबी जहाजों को गुजरने नहीं देगा और यह भी कहा है कि अकाबा की खाड़ी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय जलमार्ग नहीं है ; और

(ख) क्या इस खाड़ी से भारत के जहाज भी गुजरते हैं ?

वैदेशिक कार्य उमंत्रि (श्रीमती लक्ष्मी मेनन) : (क) सऊदी सरकार द्वारा अमरीका की सरकार को भेजे गए किसी ऐसे ज्ञापन (मेमोरेण्डम) का भारत सरकार को पता नहीं है। बहरहाल, सऊदी सरकार ने सब देशों के नाम एक नोट भेजा था, जिसमें कहा था कि अकाबा की खाड़ी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय जलमार्ग नहीं है और यह कि खाड़ी साथ वाले अरब देशों का प्रादेशिक जलक्षेत्र है।

(ग) ग्राम तौर से भारतीय जहाज इस खाड़ी से नहीं गुजरते।

Import Restrictions

*618. **Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the amount of foreign exchange likely to be saved on account of restriction on imports for the quarter ending the 30th September, 1957?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): The current import policy is an interim policy for the period July-September, 1957, designed to facilitate firstly, adoption of the fiscal year basis for the regulation of imports and