

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: The Speaker made an observation regarding discretionary power of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for treatment of Cancer patients.

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY: Thank you very much, Sir. In the reply, I see that there is a scheme where the Government is providing financial assistance using Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi where upto Rs. 15 lakh is being provided. There is also the Health Minister's discretionary grant of Rs. 1.5 lakh which is being provided for the poor. I am not sure as to how many Members are aware of this. It is because we usually write only to the Prime Minister's National Relief fund. Can the Members apply for this?

माननीय अध्यक्ष : मंत्री जी, यह महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है, सभी लोग इसके बारे में जानना चाहेंगे ।

*m02

श्री मनसुख मांडविया : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जानना चाहा है कि क्या मंत्री जी को मरीजों की मदद करने की पावर है? कोई बीपीएल लाभार्थी मरीज हो, कैंसर जैसी गंभीर बीमारी हो, ऐसी स्थिति में मंत्री जी को पावर दिया गया है कि वह सरकारी अस्पताल में उसके इलाज के लिए 20 लाख रुपए तक का सहयोग कर सकता है । मैंने अभी यह उपयोग नहीं किया है । यह ऐसे ही हो जाता है ।

*m03

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय सांसदों को यह पहली बार पता चला है । अभी तक हमें प्रधानमंत्री सहायता कोष के बारे में ही पता था ।

... (व्यवधान)

कुंवर दानिश अली : अध्यक्ष महोदय, ... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप बार-बार बिना इजाजत के खड़े हो जाते हैं, इसलिए मैं आपको प्रश्न पूछने की इजाजत नहीं दे रहा हूँ ।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : प्रश्न संख्या 146, श्री एस.आर.पार्थिबन - उपस्थित नहीं ।

श्री कोडिकुन्नील सुरेश ।

(Q.146)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the farmers are facing problem of shortage of fertilizer all over the country. They are not getting the fertilizer in time. The increased prices of fertilizers are also not affordable for the farmers.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government or the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is taking any immediate step to make the fertilizers available at a reasonable price to the farmers.

श्री मनसुख मांडविया : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, पहली बात यह है कि देश में उर्वरक की कोई कमी नहीं है । माननीय सदस्य दूसरी बात यह जानना चाहते हैं कि किसानों को सस्ते दर पर फर्टिलाइजर मिले ।

माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय सदस्य को यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि देश में तीन सौ से सवा तीन सौ लाख मीट्रिक टन यूरिया की रेक्वायरमेंट होती है ।

देश में 240 से 295 लाख मीट्रिक टन यूरिया इंडिजिनसली मैन्यूफैक्चर होता है और 60 से 70 लाख मीट्रिक टन यूरिया हमें इम्पोर्ट करना पड़ता है । जहाँ तक इसे सस्ते दर में उपलब्ध कराने की बात है, तो मैं बताना चाहूंगा कि

उनके समय में जो प्राइस तय किए गए थे, यूरिया की वही प्राइस है। साढ़े सात साल में हमने एक रुपया भी दाम नहीं बढ़ाया है, लेकिन इंटरनेशनल मार्केट में यूरिया की प्राइस 900 डॉलर हो गई यानी 2,750 रुपए। इंटरनेशनल मार्केट में यूरिया की प्राइस 2,750 रुपए प्रति बैग हो जाने के बावजूद हमने यूरिया का प्राइस नहीं बढ़ाया और 2,500 रुपए प्रति बैग सब्सिडी दी।... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : मैं आपको भी इजाज़त दे दूंगा।

श्री मनसुख मांडविया : मैंने डॉलर में प्राइस बताया।

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आपने अपने उत्तर में यह दे रखा है।

श्री मनसुख मांडविया : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रति बैग 2,500 रुपए सब्सिडी उपलब्ध कराकर भी सरकार ने देश में यूरिया उपलब्ध कराई है। इसकी कोई कमी नहीं है।

देश में सौ से सवा सौ लाख मीट्रिक टन डीएपी और इतनी ही मात्रा में एनपीके की रिक्वायरमेंट होती है। इस बार इंटरनेशनल मार्केट में डीएपी की प्राइस बहुत बढ़ गई है। दूसरी बात, कोविड क्राइसिस की वजह से शिपिंग की भी दिक्कत थी। ऐसी स्थिति में दुनिया के देशों से डीएपी खाद लाकर उपलब्ध कराया। मार्केट में यह 1250 रुपए प्रति बैग बिकता था, हमने उसकी प्राइस नहीं बढ़ने दी। 1,650 रुपए प्रति बैग सब्सिडी देकर हमने किसानों की मदद की है। यह मोदी सरकार है और किसानों के प्रति हमारा कमिटमेंट है।

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय मंत्री महोदय, सांसदों की राय है कि आप अपने डिस्क्रिशनरी फण्ड का भी उपयोग किया करें।

श्री रितेश पाण्डेय : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से एक छोटा-सा सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ।

हमारे ग्रामीण इलाके में एक शिकायत बहुत ज्यादा है कि डीएपी और एनपीके के बैग्स पहले 50 किलो के होते थे, अब उनको घटाकर 45 किलो का कर दिया गया है और प्राइस पुरानी ही है। यह जो कटौती हुई है, उससे प्राइस में

कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ा है और ये पुराने वाले प्राइस पर ही बिक रहे हैं । मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या मात्रा के हिसाब से उनके प्राइस तय किए जाएंगे ताकि किसानों को फायदा हो सके ।... (व्यवधान)

श्री मनसुख मांडविया: आपने प्रश्न पूछ लिया या अभी आपको पूछना है?

माननीय अध्यक्ष :मैंने इनको प्रश्न पूछने की इजाज़त नहीं दी है ।

श्री मनसुख मांडविया: माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, डीएपी का बैग 50 किलो का ही है, उसमें कोई कटौती नहीं हुई है । यूरिया के बैग की मात्रा में पाँच किलो की कमी की गई है, लेकिन उसके मुताबिक हमने प्राइस भी कम किया है । प्रति किलो पहले जो प्राइस था, हमने वही प्राइस रखा है, इसलिए किसानों पर इससे कोई बर्डेन नहीं पड़ा है ।

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 147, Shri Vijaykumar *Alias* Vijay Vasanth – Not Present.

Shri B. Manickam Tagore.

(Q.147)

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE : Thank you so much, Sir.

Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has said that India's total development portfolio in Sri Lanka is nearly 4 billion US Dollars, out of which the grant component is 7 million US Dollars. It is a welcome thing. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government has taken note of the China's closeness in Sri Lankan Affairs. Also, what steps have been taken by the Government for implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement, particularly with regard to the 13th

Amendment which gives powers to the Northern and the Eastern provinces?

SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, during the last seven years of the Government of Shri Narendra Modi, our foreign policy has received more attention and focus. It has also reflected in the ties with our neighbours. The Government has adopted the policy of Neighbourhood-First. Through that policy, we have been trying to develop our bilateral engagements with all our neighbours including Sri Lanka. Through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Government has noted the participation of the Chinese companies in some port-related development projects in Sri Lanka. But through you, I would also like to tell the hon. Member that India's relationship with other countries stand on their own footing and are independent of the relations of those countries with third countries.

However, I would like to assure the House that the Government carefully monitors any development having a bearing on India's security and economic interests, and takes all necessary measures to safeguard them.

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 148, Dr. Shashi Tharoor.

(Q. 148)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Sir, I have been looking very carefully at the response of the hon. Minister. I think it is not entirely accurate to say that we cannot predict accidents; we cannot identify danger areas because in Kerala, we have on the coast the Vizhinjam Port in my constituency, the Kochi Port, the BPCL refinery, and of course, the new

Mangalore Port which is just north of us, which also impact us. I have spoken with the Minister about how oil spills like that of February, 2021 can impact the fisherfolk who are already in a desperate position and they are people below the poverty line, and, of course, the tourist industry suffers terribly when beaches are closed because of oil spills. I would, therefore, request the Minister to take proactive steps in co-operation with the State Government to identify suitable areas, and prevent this from happening in future.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Respected Speaker, Sir, our learned friend Dr. Shashi Tharoor ji has highlighted a very sensitive issue. But in my statement, as you have asked me to mention the spot of the marine oil spills, you might have noticed that there is a mention that it is confined to the shore line. I believe you have studied the matter in detail. You are a learned friend. So, I believe, as you have expected proactive steps from me in the near future, as you know, the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan provides for consultation with all the stakeholders, the coastal States and the Ports Authority, whether it is major Ports Authority or non-major Ports Authority, the coastal guards and other agencies like the petroleum handling agencies. So, we have to work with integration and integrated efforts need to be put so that pollution does not occur.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Sir, the Government introduced a Maritime Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill in 2015 and then they withdrew it saying they would produce a totally new Bill in response to comments by the Standing Committee, which was a good idea. Unfortunately, they have not introduced the Bill for the seven years since they withdrew the previous Bill. As a result, our oceans, our economy, marine life and

fisherfolk are all in danger from the lack of up-to-date legislation to protect their interests.

I would like to ask the Minister whether he has any proposal to introduce a new Bill to cover and to replace the out-of-date Merchant Shipping Act, and whether this will take into account at least four international conventions that India has not yet ratified. They are, the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, the Protocol to Amend the International Fund on Oil Pollution Damage, the International Convention relating to Intervention on the High Seas for Oil Pollution Casualties and the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by dumping of wastes. Now these are four international conventions that India has been considering, and in some cases, it is throughout the tenure of this Government.

I would be grateful to know whether the Government is planning to take any proactive action to save our country from pollution, to sign these conventions and to introduce a new law in this Parliament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Respected Speaker, Sir, as you know, the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and a new Bill have also been taken up to make the country pollution free. ... (*Interruptions*) Let me finish. So, as you have asked if the Government is willing to bring any initiative or any kind of a new legislation in the near future, in this regard, let me say that whatever existing laws we have are sufficient enough because it is a question of commitment and sincerity. That sincerity and commitment is very much there within our existing framework to make the people free from this danger and also in the coastal region, our fishermen do not suffer in the near future. So,

whatever adequate measures need to be taken, the Government is always there to take this kind of initiative.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

(Starred Question Nos.149 to 160

Unstarred Question Nos.1611 to 1840)

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माननीय अध्यक्ष : प्रश्न काल समाप्त ।

