

[Translation]

SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Have any steps been taken in regard to the report on the rail mishap which occurred on Bombay Khadrkpur routes?

[English]

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: No, Sir.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Mr. Speaker Sir, from the answer to part (a) of the question it appears that most of the accidents have taken place due to derailment. Out of 75 total accidents, derailment accidents are 56 as is mentioned in the answer to part (a).

Now the measures therefor taken should include in a big way the renewal of old tracks, overdue tracks. The answer to part (e) of the question says that overdue track renewals on all important routes are being liquidated. That is one of the measures taken by the Railways. I would like to know the details regarding this measure during the period, December 1994 to January 1995. In physical and financial terms, what is the measure taken as far as the overdue track renewals are concerned, particularly in Central and Western Railways, where most of the accidents are due to derailments?

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, so far as derailments are concerned, I agree with the hon. Member that it is one of the areas of concern for us, not because of any serious accidents or anything that it is creating but it affects the punctuality. The through-run of the traffic gets affected resulting into punctuality loss and it brings a bad image to the Railways.

The structure of rails is one of the reasons for such derailments in addition to other things. We have been taking lot of steps including track machines. Now we are going in for another latest equipment, which can take x-rays. If we mount that equipment to Rajadhani or Shatabdi or any of the superfast express train engines, it can x-ray the entire track to the length and breadth and it will show a graph where the track is weak so that the Railways can take immediate measures to correct it.

I can assure the House that the railways is quite concerned about its image. We do not want to lose even money and cause inconvenience to the human life or to the passengers. The image of the Railways depends such upon the safety, security and punctuality. We are quite conscious about it. If you look at the last Budget and even the earlier Budget, Railways had made considerable efforts in giving a thrust to the safety aspect and quite a sizeable investment had been made.

Coming to the specific question of the hon. Member, Shri Sharad Digheji, so far as Western Railway is concerned, as he could see, the number is only five, which is very negligible, whereas in the Central Railway, the number is hardly 11. If you look at the length of the Central Railway, which it runs, it should not be a very serious thing. But our intention would be even to reduce that.

Import of Fertilizers

*3. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fertilizers imported and indigenously produced in India during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto December, 1994);

(b) the value of these fertilizers, year-wise;

(c) the subsidy paid by the Government for these fertilizers for the supply to the agriculture sector, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of fertilizers?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The details of fertilizers imported since 1992-93 are as under:—

(figures in lakh tonnes)

Fertilizers Imported	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (upto Decem- ber, 94)
Urea	18.57	28.40	20.64
DAP*	15.57	15.69	8.25
MOP*	17.61	14.28	15.45
SOP	0.05	—	—
NPK	1.30	—	—

* Figures of imports effected after decontrol and decan-
lisation are only approximations.

There is no indigenous production of potash as the country does not have any known and commercially viable source of this nutrient. Eighteen types of fertilizers with varying combinations of nitrogen, phosphate & potash are produced in the country. The quantities of fertilizers produced during the period in question are given below in nutrient terms:

(Quantities in lakh tonnes of nutrients).

Year	Nitrogen(N)	Phosphate(P)	Total (N+P)
1992-93	74.30	23.06	97.36
1993-94	72.31	18.15	90.46
1994-95 (Upto Decem- ber '94)	58.26	17.83	76.09

(b) The costs of production of indigenous fertilizers vary from product to product and from plant to plant, depending upon a variety of factors, such as feeds-tock, technology, vintage and location of the plant. The difference between

production costs and the value as realised from the market is a function of the market forces, the regulatory framework applicable and the policies of subsidisation.

The Cost and Fright value of the fertilizers imported on Government account during the period under consideration is as under:

Year	C&F value of fertilisers imported on Government account (Rs. crores)
1992-93	2216.00
1993-94	1300.18
1994-95	1180.47
(upto Decemebr '94)	

(c) The subsidy disbursed for indigenou and imported chemical fertilizers used for agricultural purposes during the relevant years is as follows:

Year	Subsidy on controlled fertilizers (Rs. crores)	Special concession on decontrolled fertilizers (Rs. crores)
1992-93	5796.11	339.73
1993-94	4398.97	517.33
1994-95	2944.72	145.00
(upto Decemebr '94)		

(d) Within the constraints of the availability of feedstock an draw materials, efforts have been made to optimize the indigenou production of fertilizers. During the period under reference, the installed capacity of fertilizers in terms of nutrients has increased from 113.53 lakh tonnes to 118.14 lakh tonnes. The overall capacity utilization has also been rased from 88% to 90% in respect of nitrogenou fertilizers and from 82% to 84.3% in respect of phosphatic fertilizers. The gap between the availability from these sources and demand is bridged by imports. Fertilizers companies have also been encouraged to set up joint ventures in other countries, richly endowed with the feedstock and raw materials required for production of fertilizers.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have carefully gone through the statement placed on the Table of the House. It does not answer all my questions. The question of fertilizers in linked with the production of foodgrains. It seems that the present production of foodgrains has got stuck at 188 million tonnes. I wanted to ask something about the fertilizers industry and to what extent is our policy on fertilizers is responsible for this stagnant production of foodgrains, but I have been receiving phone calls since yesterday. The first question that I want to ask in Lok Sabha is regarding the availability of urea and its increasing prices. Is it true that urea is not available in

adequate quantity and at reasonable rates? Is the distribution of urea faulty? Who is being punished for this fault? How is this system being streamlined?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand of urea is increasing because the control has been lifted from phosphate and potash and it has resulted in the price-hike. Now, as a result thereof only urea is being used which is not good for the soil. Since I am a consumer I am putting forth a consumer's viewpoint but I would like to know why urea is not being made available to the farmers at reasonable rates and what steps are being taken by the Government in this direction? I will put my second question after that.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a consumer and I am a farmer myself and am always careful that no such step is taken which harms the interests of the farmers and which prevents availability of good products. The steps are taken after carefully considering these points. So, as soon as(Interruptions)

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one bag of urea worth Rs. 117 is being sold in Madhya Pradesh at Rs. 300. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Please listen to my reply first. Why so many people have stoop up before my reply. At present I am replying to the question asked by the hon. Members Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, do not ask in this manner. If a question is important then ask it after seriously considering its.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU: There is a big unrest among the peasantry. He is misleading the House. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: The control was removed from potash and phosphate fertilizers as it had been decided by the Joint Select Committee of both the Houses in 1992 that barring Urea all other fertilizers should be made control free. That is why it was decontrolled and now only urea remains to be made control free. That is why, the demand for urea was more than ever before and due to the fact that phosphate and potash were decontrolled, rates has also been affected. As far as it is possible and considering that we give subsidy also and all the aspects put together, I feel the increase in the rate of urea is not much. (Interruptions) You do not listen. Please listen to my reply first. I would like to state for the benefit of the hon. Members that the work of distribution and increase in supply when a demand is sent to the agricultural department from the State Government it is decided by everyone as to what kind of fertilizer can be made available, in what quantity and from which source. When the demand is referred to me we make the supply depending on the production available. Then the other process starts as to which district should be provided

manure and the whole work is undertaken by the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. It does not appear to be a good method.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: The more important point is in every state this very act empowers the state government to see as to who indulges in black marketing; what is the fixed fair price and who is taking a higher price and to take action against him.

Sir, whenever such news items appear in newspapers or hon. Members have drawn our attention towards such incidents, my department has taken action and it has written to the concerned State Governments or Chief Secretary of the concerned State. The cuttings of such news items are sent to them and wherever such cases are found directives are sent there on for making proper inquiry and taking legal action into the matter. It is your right but not my responsibility. I know about some states where there are complaints of blackmarketing but action is not being taken against them who are found guilty for it. It is not fare that you blame me for all such things.

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have not yet listened, the reply. Hon. Minister is evading from his responsibility.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: I am telling my responsibilities *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE: Hon. Minister is shifting his responsibility to Agriculture Minister and states as Central Government has nothing to say in this matter. After all Centre has control over the production, distribution and import of fertilizers. The Hon. Minister has said that prices of fertilizers have not been increased too much. I would like to ask my first question, it is not the second question but supplementary to first one. How much will you increase the prices of fertilizer which are more increased in the department of the hon. Minister?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Hon. Member plays with words and takes them otherwise. In respect of this question I would like to say that neither the Agriculture Department, nor the State Governments nor myself shirk from the responsibility but there is a official procedure and there is a law and accordingly I told that the government decides in consultation with Agriculture Department what is state-wise requirement of fertilizer and uria. When it is decided the department of Agriculture sends statewide requirement and consumption for rabi and kharif crops separately. Accordingly...*(Interruptions)* we distribute the fertilizer. I would like to tell you that in spite of so many hurdles and knowing the performance of several factories because of obsolete technology for increasing production this year we have fixed 18 per cent target. We have increased 8 per cent so far. There are several types of problems in some factories that's why this 10 per cent production has not been achieved. Even then this year we have increased 9 per cent production. We import fertilizers in accordance to the requirement of farmers. Thus by filling

the gap we distribute it accordingly. Neither we allow scarcity of fertilizers for farmers not we let it happen in future also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, where is my question...*(Interruptions)* where is my second question. That was clarification about quantity.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question of opinion which cannot be answered.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: That was not meant for reply. That was asked to clarify the misunderstanding of the hon. Minister. My second question is whether steps have been taken to increase the production. The Hon. Minister was telling that those steps are not sufficient. Several factories are lying closed and several are running in losses. Two public sector factories i.e. HFC and FCI, are incurring losses since their commencement. At one time it is said that design is defective and at other time equipments is blamed for that. There is over-staffing also. RCF and PPC are also incurring loss. These factories are facing more and more problems after decontrol of fertilizers. PDIL, which was earlier earning profit, is now incurring loss. My question was that in view of the losses incurred by those factories how would you reduce the import of fertilizer? It is a fact that there is no reserve of potash in our country but the quality of fertilizer can be improved by adopting other methods so that we may become self-sufficient in this field. Why have you not taken such steps?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: We have taken appropriate steps according to our resources. As I have told you that the technology of our factories is obsolete. There is so many defects in it. There is over staffing too even then this year we have increased the production by 8 per cent. Apart from it Rs. 109 crore were given to run these factories smoothly at least for next six months. Earlier this expenditure was Rs. 69 crore. These people were given money without any work. We have revived FCI and HFC by spending Rs. 40 crore more. It includes five factories. In these circumstances our production has been increased by 90 thousand tonnes per month and during the next 5 months it will be raised by 4.5 lakh tonnes.

On other side the people who are setting up their own factories they will start production in coming few months or years. Apart from it keeping in view the scarcity of gas etc. the Government has decided to set up factories in collaboration with other countries, at those places where gas and other raw material is available in abundance. That production will come here and we will give them their share. Thus we have signed agreements with three countries i.e. Oman, Iran etc. and discussion with another 2-3 countries is in progress.

Demand for fertilizer is increasing every year. Every farmer wishes to use fertilizer for the crops of rice, fruits or any other crop. Since the first Five Year Plan we have increased the production of fertilizer by 100 tonnes. Along

with it we also import fertilizer. Therefore I said that we are leaving no stone unturned. But most attention is being paid in this direction that we may produce more and more fertilizers within the country so that import could be reduced.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH: Sir, the hon. Minister has told that the rate of imported DAP is equivalent to the rate of raw material. The cost of raw material increases in factories and the whole subsidy is given to factory owners and not to farmers. I seek hon. Minister's clarification on it. I would also like to know that what measures are being taken by the Government for removing the acute shortage of urea and other fertilizers in Punjab.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: So far as urea is concerned. I have told you earlier that we produce it mostly within the country. Raw material for the other fertilizers is not available in our country therefore we have to import all these fertilizers from foreign countries. The Rates of these fertilizers depend upon their rates in international market. In spite of it we give subsidy in urea in our department. The department of Agriculture is giving subsidy even today on decontrolled fertilizers at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per tonnes which we import from outside. We given subsidy on fertilizers wherever it is necessary. We keep the interests of farmers in our mind. The production cost and selling price is calculated thereafter the difference is covered by giving subsidy. The farmers may get the maximum benefit, we try for that and it will be continued for ever.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has not told about the difference between rates of the imported fertilizers and raw-material. Hon. Minister has not replied to that.

SHRIMATI LOVELY ANAND: Mr. Speaker Sir, two important incidents took place in Bihar during last few days. Today I will raise an issue in respect of Bihar, since it is concerned with my honour. Two incidents occurred there an accused was beaten there....

MR. SPEAKER: You may please raise it after question hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please raise it later on.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record...

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not like this....

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record....

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, her party has

created a chaos throughout Bihar. At least she should not be allowed to create disorder here in the House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, she is creating a disorder here also.

11.46 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Lovely Anand came and sat on the floor near the Table.... (Interruptions)

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir it is highly inflammable*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you just hear me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, They killed an IAS officer, Shri Krishnaiah, a person coming from poor family and belonging to a weaker section. I also come from Andhra Pradesh. They have brutally killed him. It is a most unfortunate thing. They have no concern for his family. ...*(Interruptions)* What right have they got to take this stand? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, let me talk to her. Madam, will you hear me?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen me. Whatever you have said does not go on record in this way. If you say it properly only then it will go on record and if necessary an action will also be taken on it. You are a new Member. I will allow you to raise this issue after question hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen me first. If the House feels it necessary to take into account your sources, pains and anxiety, it will do so. Do not behave, like this. In this way you come in the wrong side. Please take your seat. I will allow you.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not do so. There is no use of it. I will let you speak later on. Whatever we can do, we will do. If you do so, we will not help you.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you speak properly you will get the assurance, if not, you will not get assurance even and an action will be taken against you. Do not start your Parliamentary career like this way. Go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not give that, the Government have to give that. I will let you understand a lot of other things also later on. At present you take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: See, do not start your Parliamentary Career in this way.

11.51 hrs.

[At this stage Shrimati Lovely Anand went back to her seat]

MR. SPEAKER: We are thankful to you.

[English]

I will allow you later.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI: Mr. Speaker Sir, the private dealers appointed by the N.F.L., exploit the farmers. Not only the farmers get lack of fertilizers but they are also being compelled to lift the insecticides and pesticides of poor quality in abundance. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if he would give the responsibility of distributing fertilizers to the marketing societies instead of the private dealers?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, many suggestions have been received till now. If some people say that distribution should be made only through the co-operative societies, some people say that it should be done only through the societies of registered people while some other people say that it should be done through private traders. After keeping all these things in mind the company has decided to appoint dealers. There are rules and regulations framed for this purpose. If the hon. Members think that somewhere something is wrong then I will write to the State Government or to the concerned company. I will abide by my duty so that the hon. Members think that I have done the utmost at my level.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask some questions for reply from the hon. Minister. Whether any responsibility has been fixed for the continuous scarcity of urea? The quantity of urea distributed during the last six months in the State? On what basis urea is made allotment of by the companies to the dealers and how many dealers have been appointed by the Government during the last 6 months in Bihar and what was the process adopted or their appointment?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, I do not have the replies of all the queries raised by the hon. Member I am not aware of the numbers and location of the dealers, and how they have been selected. But I would like to say that Bihar from where both you and I come from, has been given more than it used to get earlier....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, last time when I had asked the question, I was told that I remain in fairy land by the hon. Agriculture Minister and today it has taken a real shape. Today urea has become costly and its artificial scarcity is being created, while its production has gone up but disorder in its distribution among the people is the main cause of price hike. At that time I had also asked

the question and today also I would like to know if the scarcity of fertilizers is being created in a planned manner? To remove this death, the Government is importing cow dung. When I raised this point last time, the hon. Agriculture Minister has said that I was in wrong side. But after three days when it appeared in the newspapers that the Government of India is importing cow dung. Articles were appeared in news papers.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is totally a base less talk.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if such a nexus is going on with the foreign countries to increase the import and to reduce the capacity of the fertilizer factories? Whether the old factories are being closed down, these are not being maintained and the new factories are not being given the raw material. I think there is a foreign conspiracy behind it. Whether it is a fact that the indigenous factories are being closed down to promote import and a conspiracy is being hatched to import cow dung?

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: It is totally wrong that the cow dung is being imported. I have already given the replies of all the previous queries. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has said that it is totally wrong. But 2-3 months back, the details of the import of cowdung had appeared in the newspapers and the quantity and the names of the countries from where it was being imported, were also appeared whether the Government has contradicted it. (Interruptions)

Why did the Government not condemn it. (Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: It is wrong. He talks base less. [English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let us understand that the statements made on the floor of the House should be accepted. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHOTEY SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has just now said that.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, I have not called your name.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, though the hon. Minister has said that the production of fertilisers has increased, but yet it is a fact that the per hectare consumption of fertilisers is very less when compared to several countries. In view of the fact that the irrigated area expansion is not going at a brisk pace, the only solution will be to get more production through increased consumption of fertilisers.

So, in view of this fact, will the Government reconsider its present policy and give weightage to G.V.K. Rao Committee's Report which had suggested that fertiliser price should not be enhanced by more than seven per cent once in three years, otherwise it would have adverse

impact on the consumption of fertilisers? That is what has happened in the last three years.

So, will the Government come forward and categorically assure this House that it would go by the recommendation of the G.V.K. Rao Committee's Report and would bring down the prices of potassic and phosphatic fertilisers?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: It creates inconvenience when many questions are added as parts to the main question. I have already said that the demands of our farmers are increasing day by day and year by year. Their attitude towards the use of fertilisers is increasing. It is also a fact that our farmers did not know as much earlier as compared to the farmers of other countries and now they are acquainted with. Then it is right that we are increasing our production in ratio of their increasing demand. We have given its data also but it is less as compared to our demand and we make it up by importing it. Besides it we are trying at our level least to fulfil the demand... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANDREESWARA RAO VADDE: Are you reducing the price..

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a question Hour and you do not do like this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Sir, these prices were going on for the last 2 years and we have raised it this year. The increase is less than the ratio of the amount fixed for procuring food grains by the agriculture department and the price of Urea has not gone up more than eight and half per cent during the last three years... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHOTEY SINGH YADAV: Sir, at the time of annual allotment the manufacturing companies give assurance to the State Governments that they would supply so much fertilizers to them in the said year. The companies which gave assurance to Uttar Pradesh on the direction of the hon. Minister or due to some other reasons, have not fulfilled it. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if some action would be taken against the companies, which have not fulfilled the annual assurance. If so, whether the Government will ponder over to increase the quantity, as per the need of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: The Government has already done the allotment but we have given more on the demand of the Chief Minister

or the other sources also. We have also said that we have fulfilled the demand and we will do so wherever it is necessary. I would like to lay a copy of the details on the table of the House regarding what we had given last year, what we have given and what we are likely to give so that the people can see where is the dearth.

SHRI CHOTEY SINGH YADAV: Mr Speaker, Sir...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Agricultural Land

*4. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural land is required to be expanded and developed to achieve the targets of agricultural production by the end of the Eight Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether additional undisputed land is lying idle for distribution and development;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have asked the State Governments for proper distribution of this land;

(e) whether any guidelines have been issued in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The strategy for increasing the agricultural production in the 8th Five Year Plan lays emphasis on increasing the productivity of crops from the existing cultivated land through the implementation of Thrust Programmes on various important crops by adopting a system approach.

(b) and (c) The land available for distribution free from all encumbrances in the different States is given in the statement-I enclosed.

(d) The issue relating to the distribution of ceiling surplus land has been discussed at various fora including Revenue Chief Ministers' Conferences wherein the States have been advised to take administrative as well as legal measures for expeditious distribution of available ceiling surplus land.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir, guidelines based on the recommendations of the Chief Ministers' Conference held in 1972 have been issued to the States/U.Ts. for