

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday August 3, 1989/Sravana 12,
1911 (Saka)

Lok Sabha met at three minutes past

Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Supply of Fertilizers to Maharashtra

*243. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers in Maharashtra have
recently been affected adversely due to short
supply of fertilizers:

(b) if so, whether Government have
taken steps to supply adequate quantity of
fertilizers to farmers in Maharashtra State;
and

(c) the measures taken to resolve the
crisis?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) to (c). Adequate
quantities of fertilisers have been made
available to Maharashtra. Allocations from
imported and indigenously produced Phos-
phatic fertilisers have been made to meet the

requirement of DAP and Complexes in the
State.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr.
Speaker, Sir, I have listened attentively to
the reply given by the hon. Minister. Had
there been adequate quantities of fertilizer, I
would not have asked this question. I am not
fond of asking unnecessary questions. The
farmers of Maharashtra have actually been
affected due to short supply of fertilizers.
That is why I have asked this question. There
is a small village named Telara in Maharash-
tra where there is society dealing in sale and
purchase of fertilizers. A few days back, as
many as 300 farmers resorted to agitation as
they did not get the fertilizers. The Manager
of the society said that he had done his duty
by placing an order for one thousand tonnes
of fertilizer on 21st March, but he was help-
less as a quantity of 150-200 tonnes of
fertilizers was supplied. When farmers do
not get fertilizers in time, they have to agi-
tate. We put questions in Parliament asking
the reasons behind the non-supply of ade-
quate fertilizers to the farmers at the time of
Kharif crop. I would like to request the hon.
Minister of Agriculture and the Government
that fertilizers should be supplied to the
farmers of Maharashtra in time, otherwise
the farmers will be ruined. I am constrained
to point out to the hon. Minister that although
he gets 21 days notice for preparing replies
to our questions, yet the matter is not fully
enquired and this type of replies are given. I
would request you to get it enquired against
because the position prevailing there is quite
different than that stated in the reply. I want
a satisfactory answer regarding the reasons
behind the non-supply of fertilizers in time.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir,
so far as Maharashtra is concerned, the total
allocation of DAP fertilizer for the kharif
crops was one lakh and 3 thousand tonnes

in 1988, out of which 84 thousand tonnes was consumed. This time, 1 lakh 97 thousand tonnes of D.A.P. has been allocated for Kharif crops out of which, 1 lakh 62 thousand tonnes of fertilizer has already been supplied and at present, there is no scarcity of fertilizers in Maharashtra. Due to floods, I had gone there on tour for two days, but not even a single farmer or the State Government official or any other person mentioned anything about it. I would like to tell the hon. Member that the supply of fertilizers is adequate there. Last year, the consumption of fertilizers was 84 thousand tonnes, whereas the quantity has been almost doubled this year and 1 lakh and 62 thousand tonnes of fertilizer has been supplied, so that the farmers may not face any difficulty in getting fertilizer. If there is any difficulty in a particular area, a letter should be written to the State Government or the Central Government and we shall make necessary arrangement for it.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no reason to disbelieve the reply given by the hon. Minister, but it means that the supply is not made in time and that is why it does not reach there in time. Whatever might have happened, but since the Kharif crop is over now I would like to know whether the supply of fertilizers for the coming Rabi Season will be monitored by the centre or by the Government of Maharashtra? Fertilizer is very essential for the farmers, so I would like to know as to what arrangements are being made by the Government for providing fertilizers to the farmers in time?

SHRIBHAJANLAL: Mr. Speaker, sir, in order to ensure supply of fertilizer in time, allocation is made in the month of April so that it reaches all the places in the months of April and May, that is, before the sowing of Kharif crops. That is why, out of the total allocation of one lakh and 97 thousand tonnes, one lakh and 62 thousand tonnes of fertilizer has already been supplied and rest of the allocation is also being sent. As compared to last year's consumption double quantity of fertilizers has already been sup-

plied. As the supply has not reached this area, we shall check it up today itself and shall try to send it at the earliest. It is a different thing if any road has been blocked due to floods or there is some other reasons for the delay. Otherwise, fertilizer is available there and there is no problem of fertilizer. The supply of fertilizer all over the country is satisfactory and the availability of the fertilizers is enough to meet the requirement.

SHRIPRAKASHV. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand for fertilizers has increased in Maharashtra due to rains. The hon. Minister has given the figures of 1988 season, but the requirement has now increased. The demand made by our society was 5 thousand tonnes, but not even 500 tonnes have been supplied. There is a demand for 60 thousand tonnes of fertilizers in the progressive districts like Gulabpur and Sangli, but they have been supplied lesser quantity than their requirement. Although supplies have been made yet I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps that will be taken by the Government to further improve the supply of fertilizers?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there may be some reasons for the lower allocation to the society. One the reasons may be that they are demanding more than their last year's consumption, we will check it up. Please give it in writing to us and we will check it up as to how much is their requirement.

There may be problem, if fertilizer is not available, but when it is available with the State Government, they must supply it. There may be some reasons for not supplying the fertilizers, so we shall look into it and try to improve the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jena, what do you want to ask in this regard?

SHRICHINTAMANIJENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of fertilizer is not confined to Maharashtra alone it is there in every State. In Orissa, nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers

are being sold in black market at the rate of Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 per quintal. The fertilizers are also not available with the cooperative societies. The farmers are facing too much difficulties. Every day, I am getting complaints from there. Even to-day two-three farmers are there in my house and they have confined this position. Last week, I went to Orissa and found that fertilizers are not available there. These are not available in the co-operative societies also. But the shops in the private sector are selling fertilizers in the black market. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total requirement of fertilizers in every state and the quantity supplied so far?

MR. SPEAKER: How can he give these details. It is a different question.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I could not understand as to what he is asking but he has asked something about Orissa. He said that fertilizers were available there in the black market only and its supply is not regular. I would like to tell him that whenever there is any complaint regarding black marketing, the State Government should be informed, because the State Government is competent to enquire into it. If it is not checked by the State Government, the Central Government should be informed in writing and shall get it checked. Fertilizers should be made available to the farmers at the rates fixed by the Central Government. His second question is regarding the position of fertilizers in the country. Last year, con-

sumption of fertilizers in the country was 110 lakh tonnes and this year, the target of 125 lakh tonnes has been fixed. Every year, 90-91 lakh tonnes of fertilizers are produced in our country and stock of 34-35 lakh tonnes has also been carried over from the previous year. Therefore, there is no scarcity of fertilizers in the country because 120 lakh tonnes of fertilizers are available with us, whereas our last year's consumption was only 110 lakh tonnes.

[English]

New Licences Issued for acquisition of Vessels

*244. SHRIM.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued new licences to some Indian shipping companies for acquiring new vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a few of the new licences are absolutely new in the ship business; and

(d) the sources of finance of the licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). During the period 1st April, 1987 till 31st July, 1989 Government have issued approvals to the following companies for acquisition of new ships:—

S.No.	Name of the Company	Number & type of vessels	DWT/Capacity
1	2	3	4
1.	Chowgule Steamships Ltd.	4 Mini, Bulk Carriers	1650 DWT each
2.	Mangala Bulk Carriers Ltd.	2 Mini Bulk Carriers.	1700 DWT each
3.	Southern Petro Chemical Ltd.	1 LPG Carrier	17000 DWT
4.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	3 Ethylene Gas Carriers	1 of 16000 Cubic Meters. 2 of 4500-6000 Cubic Meters.
5.	Amer Ship Management Pvt. Ltd.	1 Reefer Vessel	13-16000 DWT
6.	Asia Foundation & Construction Ltd.	2 Offshore Supply Vessels	570 DWT each
7.	Gujarat Sagar Shipping Company Ltd.	2 Hover crafts/ Passenger ferry boats.	50 Passengers each.
8.	New Indian Bussiness House Pvt. Ltd.	2 Hover crafts/ Passenger ferry boats.	50 Pasengers each.
9.	Essar Shipping Co. Ltd.	6 Mini Bulk Carriers	1800 DWT each

S.No.	Name of the Company	Number & type of vessels	DWT/Capacity
1	2	3	4
10.	Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd.	1 Product Carrier	25000-3000 DWT
11.	Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.	2 LPG Carriers	16000 DWT each
		3 Phosphoric Acid Carriers	30800 DWT each.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The sources of finance of the new licencess are Own resources, Yard Credit and Loans from Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Limited and Foreign Banks, etc.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the country had about 70 shipping companies in the year 1985 but were reduced to 55 in the middle of 1986. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the main reasons for the sudden decline in the shipping trade.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, it is a fact that our tonnage came down especially between the middle of 1984 till the end of 1987 or the middle of 1988. Shipping was under recession not only in our country but also all over the world. But I must also inform the House that our country's shipping sectors sustained the recession to a great extent. In developed countries some of the shipping companies have closed down. Even the subsidy given by the developed countries was up to the extent of 100 per cent. But with whatever little the Government could afford, we tried to sustain the shipping companies and whatever we have lost in the recession, whatever tonnage that come down, we are putting our best efforts to catch up in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Our target for the Seventh Plan was 7.5 million GRT. But we might touch 6 million GRT. So, we are short by 1.5 million GRT at the end of the Seventh Plan. But we are very hopeful that with the liberalisation policy of the Government and also after the procedures were simplified and whatever changes in policies we could bring about to encourage the shipping companies to catch up with the tonnage, it would be improved.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, we have to admit that even about the shipping corporations owned by the public sector companies, their performance is very poor. This sudden decline in the trade is not the only reason as was just now said by the hon. Minister. Usually, the ship-

ping companies' promoters float the companies, take money take licences and divert the funds to some other industries or some other business.

In view of this, what are the norms and guidelines followed by the Ministry in granting licences and finance?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: There was some complaint of this nature, what the hon. Member has said. That is why the Government had transferred this SDFC to ships. We thought that it should be totally commercial. Whatever investment we are making, we must see how much the exchequer will benefit on the commercial viability of the shipping. Initially, knowing very well that shipping is also a second line of Defence and we have to develop this sector on a special criterion, the SDFC was created. Now we are very strict on giving loans. But it is also a fact that sometimes licences are taken and ships are not bought. There were two reasons earlier. Our procedure was very very hard in the sense that it was more of time consuming. There was a saying that if you go and purchase a ship in the market, they used to tell us, "Are you from India?" Then they used to tell us, "All right, then you will be coming to us after four years." They used you to tell us the cost of a ship 1-1/2 times more than what was prevailing at that time. By the time the Shipping Company used to go through the processes or the procedures, the cost of the ship used to go very high. We took lots of steps to simplify the procedure. Now, we are giving permission to any shipping company within six weeks. Six weeks is an outer date. It could be before that; it is not beyond six weeks.—yes or no. That is why from 1.4.1987 to 30th July, 1989, we approved 137 applications for the acquisition of ships, 48 ships acquired, 39 ships cancelled; they did not come back within the prescribed time period; whatever time period was mentioned—one year or more. The balance 50 ships are in the process. We also took another step in this regard. Every six months, a meeting is held, which is called 'Open Darbar'. The representatives of the Shipping Companies as well as of the Ministry sit across the table. The

representatives of the Shipping Companies shoot up questions and we reply them and dispose of their cases on the spot. It has worked out very well and there is no case which is pending in the Ministry for any query or any question from that side.

Manufacture of Mosquito Repellents from Allethrin

*245. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mosquito repellents based on allethrin, a poisonous pesticide, are freely being sold in the market;

(b) if so, whether allethrin is imported or manufactured indigenously;

(c) whether its safety from health point of view has been well-established and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to educate the public about the harmful effects of the use of such mosquito repellents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Mosquito repellents based on allethrin technical have been registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(b) Allethrin technical is imported.

(c) The Registration Committee set up under the Insecticides Act, 1968, satisfied itself regarding the safety of allethrin from health point of view on the basis of data submitted by the applicant on short-term and long-term toxicological studies.

(d) Question does not arise.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: All of us are aware that we use mosquito repellents quite frequently and quite regularly in our country. What is surprising is that a

well-known poisonous pesticide is being imported in large quantities and is being used. But if one asks whether the appropriate authority under the Insecticide Act has satisfied itself regarding toxicological or poisonous effect from the health point of view, the reply that we are given is that it is on the basis of the data submitted by the applicant. No manufacturer would say that the product which he is going to bring out is poisonous or harmful. Has any independent analysis of this drug or let us say this poisonous pesticide been done? Has any study been conducted in India regarding this? This question is being asked in the light of the fact that the FDA in the United States and the authorities in Great Britain have held that this particular pesticide is often the cause of many dangerous diseases including cancer.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: The Registration Committee goes into this matter and on the basis of certain considerations they register any insecticide or any formulations.

Those considerations are :

- (1) Data on bio-efficacy including elements of phytotoxicity, persistence;
- (2) Data on toxicological parameters both in short term and long term studies admitted on experimental animals;
- (3) Parameters of chemical purities and impurities as well as the ingredients of formulations;
- (4) Packaging specifications; and
- (5) Instructions regarding safety and efficacy on labels and leaflets in consonance with the insecticide rules.

All the data required is prescribed by the Registration Committee and I think so far as we are informed this Allethrin has not been banned in any country.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I

have asked whether an independent authority other than the applicant, the manufacturer, has done any analysis or studies. The reply can be 'yes' or 'no'. Let the world know how we are clearing poisonous substances which are regularly used. This is not once in a while taken pesticide or used pesticide. Mosquito repellents each one of us uses and the whole country uses. I want a specific answer.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: I said that these are the considerations on which generally the Registration Committee clears them and the study is very well done by them and so far as the harmful effects are concerned, I think our studies show that it is not so harmful as claimed by the hon. member, and no health hazard is involved.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I request the hon. Minister, through you, to give a reply. It is obvious that the Minister is feeling a little embarrassed to answer the question. Some independent studies may be made, whether this particular pesticide known as Allethrin used in mosquito repellents is actually safe and how far is it safe because, if it is not, let the people know to what extent it is safe. Definitely, it is toxic. How much is it, we do not know. After all, all of us know that certain amount of poisons are often useful to mankind by the level of poison, and what is the effect of it is something which needs to be studied. We are importing tonnes of it and I would also like to know what is the value of imports every year of this commodity.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the same pesticide about which the hon. Member has made mention in his question, it is a different one which is called D.D.T. In reply to this question, the Ministry of Agriculture have stated that they will not import this pesticide because it is not good for human health. The health authorities use it as mosquito repellent but we will not use the same on crops as insecticide. He has not

given the name of the pesticide correctly. We want that the insecticides which are harmful to human health should be used to the minimum. It definitely leaves some adverse effects when it is sprayed the crops, be it fruits, vegetables or food grains. We are making every effort and we will continue to do so in future also that such pesticides are used to the minimum.

[English]

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: May I answer the second part of the question? For the year 1986-87, 340 kg was imported and the value was Rs. 6.02 lakhs. For the year 1987-88, Rs. 555 kg of this commodity was imported and the value was Rs. 5.35 lakhs. And so far as the studies are concerned, these studies are done by Indian laboratories in India and also in some other countries and they are being used as mosquito repellents. That is not harmful. There are certain precautions, that the users have to take. They have to keep their windows open, so that the mosquitoes can go out and it must not cause any harm.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Some time back we were told that *neem* is going to be used as a pesticide and indigenously some research was going on. Will the hon. Minister be in a position to tell us whether *neem* can be used or replaced for such a pesticide?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: *Neem* is not involved here we are only concerned with mosquito repellents in this question.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is nice of you that you allowed me to put a question. I live in an area severally affected by mosquito menace. That is why I have been putting this question time and again since the day I entered the Lok Sabha and you are well aware of it. Today I am grateful to Shri Kumaramangalam who drew the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture to this problem who is well acquainted with the rural environment. I would like to know

whether we can conduct a research and indigenously develop a formulation from locally available drugs which could be used as mosquito repellents? Secondly, a large sum of money has already been spent in our country on malaria eradication programme, but no major break-through has been achieved to check the mosquito menace. Even if mosquitoes are eradicated for a while, further breeding takes place within no time due to presence of sources of mosquito breeding. In view of this, will the hon. Minister take necessary steps in this regard in all the Municipal Board areas and other localities.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is not related to the main question.

SHRI MADAN PANDAY: Is there any proposal under consideration of the Government to cover the open drains?

MR. SPEAKER: First of all, please tell us since when they are unauthorised occupiers?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: So far as the last part of Shri Panday's question is concerned, I feel that the Ministry of Health could look into it and keeping in view the sentiments of the hon. Member it could advise the local bodies to pay proper attention to the areas which are the breeding ground for mosquitoes and where water stagnates and dirt accumulates. So far as the question of using indigenously available material as mosquito repellents, the hon. Member might be aware that an indigenous mosquito repellent marketed by the brand name of 'Kachhua Chhap' is being prepared from a flower available in our country. Allethrin is not at all mixed in it. In our country this flower is called 'guldaudi'.

SHRI MADAN PANDAY: Is it not possible to develop a pesticide by using it on a mass scale?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, I would like to make yet another clarification here.

[English]

As per the classification of World Health Organisation, it is likely to be hazardous to us. As far as Indian classification is concerned, it is moderately toxic and it is not so serious.

I.C.D.S. Projects

*249. **SHRIG. M BANATWALLA** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to the State for Integrated Child Development Services projects during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the basis on which the allocations had been made; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide additional funds to Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) A statement showing State-wise and year-wise the amounts of Central grants-in-aid under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, released during the last three financial years, is given below.

(b) The entire expenditure (except on supplementary nutrition) incurred by the State Governments on the ICDS Scheme, as per the approved schematic pattern, is released to them by the Government of India.

(c) In view of the reply to part (b) above, the question does not arise.