

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 12, 1969/Sravana 21, 1891
(SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Manufacture of Gas Cylinders and Pipes

*481. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a bulk of the country's requirements of gas cylinders and pipes are met by imports ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Holland has agreed to the collaboration with India for manufacturing gas cylinders and pipes in India ;

(c) if so, the progress made so far in reaching an agreement in this regard ; and

(d) the total amount spent annually on importing these items ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH) : (a) The requirements of High Pressure Gas Cylinders are totally met by imports. There is only unit manufacturing Seamless steel tubes at present, and its production is not sufficient to meet the demand. The gap is met by imports. Sufficient capacity for the manufacture of ERW tubes has been created in the country, and the demand is met by current production except for some special types which are imported.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The total amount spent on imports during 1968-69 is Rs. 1.10 crore for gas cylinders, Rs. 10.46 crores for seamless steel pipes and Rs. 0.92 crore for galvanized and non-galvanized steel pipes.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : This very question was raised in the House about fifteen days back when many replies were given by the hon. Minister. I do not understand why over all these years we could not develop the necessary technology in the country, capable of producing these gas cylinder pipes. In our country, we are making aircraft, ships, automobiles etc. and to suggest that we cannot make or are not capable of making a small item like gas cylinder pipes sounds absolutely ridiculous. May I, therefore, know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the necessary technology is available and is capable of being developed within the country without any difficulty and we can very easily stop the import of these cylinder pipes ? Secondly, may I know whether it is a fact that the biggest stumbling block in permitting further rise in production of these cylinders is in regard to the import of the necessary quality of steel and steel pipes ? If Government are prepared to liberalise these imports, the existing units in the public and private sectors will be able to produce a sufficient quantity of these cylinders without any difficulty.

SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH : As you know, Sir, for the last twenty years or more, we have been making every effort to try and manufacture and produce so many things, and in a number of fields, we have tried to develop the technological know-how. Still, we have to develop in many fields. Government are trying their best as far as possible. But I shall be very glad if my hon. friend from the private sector also takes some interest and does some research and tries to develop the technical know-how we shall be very pleased to welcome it if he could help the country in that way. Regarding the require-

ment of steel etc. there are certain shortages, and Government are trying to increase the production.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : He has not replied to my question.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the hon. Member has given a sufficient answer to his question himself.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : He has only developed a story and he has not answered the question.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : I had asked two specific questions. The first is whether it is a fact that while we have developed so many other technologies, the technology for making of these cylinders is available in the country but it has not been developed properly. The second is whether it is a fact that we are importing these cylinders instead of steel, and if we import more of steel and steel pipes, our foreign exchange will be saved and we would not have to import these cylinders.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : I may supplement what my colleague has said. So far as the manufacture of low pressure cylinders is concerned, there is no difficulty in manufacturing them in our country. The difficulty is with regard to the high pressure cylinder which we are still importing. I would like the hon. Member to appreciate that two of the private firms obtained licences from us many years ago and in spite of the fact that all kinds of help were given to them by us, it was not possible for them to implement...

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Penalise them.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : One firm was Messrs. Gas Cylinders Ltd., belonging to the Birla group of firms, and the other is Messrs. Pressed Steel Tank Ltd. After so many years since the issue of the licence we found that they were not making any progress, and so action has been taken in the public sector to implement this programme so that we may not be dependent on imports, and we shall try our best to develop technology as early as possible. But in this effort, we want not

only the co-operation of the public sector but also that of the private sector, and particularly since they had taken licences from us.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhola Nath Master.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : What about my second question ? The sponsor of the question is always given chance to put two supplementary questions.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : The Member whose name appears first is given chance to put two questions always. This is an important matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Why is Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta advocating his cause ? Let it be decided by the Chair. In my opinion, his question was equal to a number of questions, but only the numbering was one.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : It is the right of the first Member to put two questions.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : I should be given chance to put my second question.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta may put forward this argument when his turn comes. Now, let Shri D. N. Patodia explain his point of view.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : It has been the established convention in this House that the first Member is given chance to put two supplementary questions.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member himself would admit that in his first question he had actually put so many questions.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : I would ask only one supplementary question now.

May I know whether it is a fact that in respect of certain private sector industries to which the hon. Minister made a reference, the difficulty arose because there was delay in the import of the necessary components and steel which those industries wanted, and had they been permitted in time, the situation would have been otherwise by now ?

SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH : Government have taken a decision to establish this factory in the public sector, and, therefore, those things are out of the question. It is no use talking about that now.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : The hon. Minister had stated that the private sector firms did not make progress. Is it not a fact that the progress was hampered because Government did not come forward to co-operate in the matter of the import of special types of steel and other necessary facilities. Had that co-operation been offered, the picture would have been otherwise.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : I think the hon. Member is completely misinformed. Government gave all possible co-operation, but they kept on changing from one part to the other and even then they could not succeed.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : He mentioned only two parties.

श्री भोलानाथ मास्टर : मन्त्री महोदय ने अभी बताया कि किस प्रकार से सिलिडर्स बनाने के लिए दिक्कत है। लेकिन जो गैस सिलिडर्स ग्राम तौर से चूल्हे के काम आते हैं उसके लिए खास तरीके के लोहे की आवश्यकता नहीं होती है, उनका अधिक उत्पादन होना बहुत जरूरी है क्योंकि पिछली दफा भी यहां पर यह बात आई थी कि सिलिडर्स के न होने की वजह से बहुत सारी गैस जला दी जाती है...

प्रध्वंश महोदय : आपका सवाल क्या है ?

श्री भोलानाथ मास्टर : मेरा निवेदन यह है कि पिछली दफा रिसेशन की जब बात चल रही थी तो कहा गया था कि प्रोडक्शन डाइवर्सिफाई करके ये सिलिडर्स पब्लिक सेक्टर में क्यों नहीं बनाये जाते हैं जिससे जनता को अधिक से अधिक संख्या में गैस सिलिडर्स मिल सकें ताकि गोबर की फटिलाइजर जो कि जनाने के काम में आती हैं, उसको भी बचाया जा सके। आज राजस्थान के बड़े-बड़े शहर जैसे अजमेर, उदयपुर, झलवर, वहां पर सिलिडर्स

की कमी की वजह से गैस की एजेन्सीज नहीं खुल पा रही है। तो इन सिलिडर्स का अधिक उत्पादन क्यों नहीं किया जा रहा है ?

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : जैसा मैंने जवाब दिया, जहां तक लो प्रेशर सिलिडर्स का ताल्लुक है, हमें कोई दिक्कत मालूम नहीं होती है क्योंकि फर्म्स काफी तादाद में बना रही हैं—जितनी हमारी डिमांड है उस हिसाब से बना रही हैं।

श्री भोलानाथ मास्टर : गैस एजेन्सीज सिलिडर्स की कमी की वजह से नहीं खुल रही हैं।

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : हाई प्रेशर सिलिडर्स हम बाहर से इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं। हमने फैसला कर लिया है कि पब्लिक अन्डर-टेकिंग में इसको लेंगे। जल्दी से जल्दी इस पर ऐक्शन लिया जायेगा।

Liquor shop near Springdales School
New Delhi

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*482. SHRI MAHANT DIGVIJAI
NATH :

SHRI VALMIKI CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a liquor shop has been set up near Springdales School and other schools near Pusa Road, New Delhi ;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a deputation 700 students of the schools and their parents met the Prime Minister on the 14th May, 1969 and requested her to close the shop ;

(c) if so, the details of the assurance given by the Prime Minister; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for closing the shop ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. SHRIMATI) PHULRENU GUHA) :

(a) There was a shop, but it has since been