

(iv) WORKING OF TALCHER UNIT OF FERTILIZER CORPORATION OF INDIA

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Earlier I raised in the House how FCI Talcher Unit was under shut-down from 2nd March, 82 to 10th August, 82 due to power cut imposed by Orissa State Electricity Board. The plant authorities promised the State Government that as soon as power is available, the plant will go full stream production. Since one and half months back, full power was restored to FCI, it has not been able to produce a single prill of Urea. It is reliably learnt that proper maintenance of sophisticated equipments like Electro-static precipitator was not carried out during the six months lay shut down. This particular equipment is in a very bad shape so as to cause limitation in production for another six months.

In the meantime, Talcher management assured the Government of India in September, 1982 that production would be started within seven days. But no effort has been made yet in this direction so far.

It is also known that the Technical Director of FCI visited and made enquiry into all details on 18th and 19th September, 1982. He met all high officials on duty and some-selected officials to go into the depth of the problems. Hence, large upon the Minister concerned to place the copy of the report of Enquiry on the Table of the House for discussion and to know the state of affairs at Talcher for which there has been massive loss of Rs. 120 crores till to date.

The Market price for Urea is around Rs. 2,200/- per tonne. But the production cost of Urea for Talcher is Rs. 12,000/- it is alleged. Hence, the true picture may be given to the House.

I urge upon the Government to supply the true picture of the plant and its functioning to the House in the national interest to help preserve the sanctity of the public institutions in the country to ameliorate the economic of the nation.

(v) NEED FOR ACTION ON STUDY MADE IN 1956 ON 'SYNTHETIC' OIL PROJECT.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (Dum Dum): In 1955 a committee headed by Dr J C Ghosh and composed of eminent Scientists and technical experts was appointed by the Government. In answer to a question the Government had stated in September 1982 that the committee and recommended the setting up of a low-temperature carbonisation plant in Bengal coalfield for production of soft coke for domestic fuel and for utilisation of bye-product tar for the production of motor spirit, fuel oil, etc. The committee was also of the view that motor fuel could be produced at less than the landed cost of imported petrol prevalent in 1956.

It is a matter of great regret that so far Government have not taken any steps to implement the recommendations of the committee regarding production of synthetic oil from coal, which is a necessity in view of the high cost of petrol now. If the synthetic oil project were implemented, tens of thousands of crores of rupees in foreign exchange would have been saved by this time. Will the Government still study the matter and implement it? I think it is extremely necessary and I demand that the Government make a statement before the House.

I have taken the permission of the Speaker and I place *this report on the Table of the House...

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will examine it... Then, Shri Ram Gopal Reddy-he is not here. Then Shri N. Soundararajan.

(vi) DECLARATION OF TAMIL NADU BANDH ON ACCOUNT OF NON-SUPPLY OF WATER TO THE STATE.

SHRI N. SOUNDARARAJAN (Sivakasi): Sir, in Tamilnadu we are suffering from a severe drought and water scarcity. We are in need of 36 TMC of water from Karnataka but we are able to get only 22 TMC of water.

*The speaker not having subsequently accorded the necessary permission the paper was not treated as laid on the Table.