

in the eastern region as a whole, not only in Sindri. The general feeling is that a number of units in the eastern region require to be revamped. There have been a number of technical mission and a number of Committees have given their reports. Unfortunately, these reports have not yet been implemented.

As regard Haldia Fertilizer Plant, an investment of Rs. 500 crores was made and it has been lying idle for several years. A small amount has been invested and that is not enough because both the German and the Japanese experts want an investment of Rs. 500 crores to be made for the unit to function. What are you going to do in this respect?

Secondly, the Hindustan Fertilizers which looks after the units in the eastern region is at Delhi and is regulating from here. Will it not be appropriate to have its headquarters somewhere in the eastern region itself, Calcutta or any other place? Further, I understand, there is a plant to transfer the marketing division to Delhi. At least, the marketing division should have its headquarters in Calcutta. I want answers to these questions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI YUVRAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a high level committee was formed for expansion of Sindri Fertilizer factory which decided that a project for its nationalisation be prepared, but that work has been stopped. Later on a programme for the modernisation of this factory was prepared which was started with an investment of Rs. 200 crores, but there has been a loss of 5000 Lakh rupees from 1983 to 1985-86. We want to know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the officers of this factory have drawn Rs. 58 Lakh for tours during 1983-84, and whether Government is aware of this fact also that crores of rupees have been given as overtime allowance to the favouritis of the officers? So, what are the steps likely to be taken to prevent such type of corruption thriving in Sindri Fertilizer Factory? Also the Government should pay attention to rectify

the old machinery and install new machinery?

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Member is asking about corruption. Government has not received any such complaint so far. If any such complaint is received it will be looked into. So far renovation of Sindri Fertilizer factory is concerned, it is going on.

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sindri Fertiliser Factory is meant for catering to the needs of Eastern India and 50 per cent of the Budget Estimates is to be allocated for the welfare of the farmers. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us the difficulty faced by the Government in the modernising this factory? Particularly when various Committees have recommended in their reports that the factory should be modernised with new plants, what is the difficulty faced by the Government in this regard?

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already made it clear in my reply that there is no such proposal for setting up any new unit at the Sindri Fertiliser Unit, but to revamp it. A sum of Rs. 17.77 crores has been sanctioned for this purpose and the work is in progress. As such there is no need to think about running the plant with any new technique.

[*English*]

U.S. Envoy's Report on Punjab

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*409. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MAN-
DAL
SHRI SHANTARAM
POTDUKHE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "Clark to submit Punjab Report"

appearing in the 'Indian Express', dated the 10 August, 1990; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Government has seen the news-item in the Indian Express of 10 August, 1990.

(b) This Ministry has confirmed from the US Embassy in New Delhi that the report mentioned was the US Ambassador's report to his Government on his Punjab visit. The Government of India cannot make any comment on a US official's secret report to his own Government, the contents of which are not known to us.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Sir, may I know from the Minister whether before visiting the disturbed areas in Punjab and meeting the people and leaders of the political parties the U.S. Ambassador had a talk with the Government of India; if so, whether during such meeting any official from the Ministry of External Affairs or Punjab Government was present. I would also like to know whether any report was made by that official to the Government of India as to what transpired during such meeting and the reaction of the Government thereto.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Sir, U.S. Ambassador visited Punjab from August 6 to 10 and the places which he visited are Patiala, Pepsi Cola Factory, Chandigarh, Semiconductor Complex, Amritsar. He had a tour of the border areas also. And he met the Governor of Punjab, Governor of Haryana, General Commander of Western Command, Chief Secretary Punjab, DG Police, Punjab, Punjab politicians including Shri Prakash Singh Badal, the Congress (I) President and others.

SHRISANATKUMAR MANDAL: I would like to know whether the Government has seen the interview given by this U.S. Ambassador to a Bombay Weekly, Blitz about his

visit to Punjab and his meeting with the political leaders there. If so, his reaction thereto and how far it is correct that his visit was for preparing the ground for the contemplated visit by the U.S. President to India which may include a visit to Punjab, border district apart from the visit to Golden Temple.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Sir, we have no such information. There is no contemplated visit of the President.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): No, no, may I slightly amend it. We have request the U.S. President to visit us. The dates are still being discussed.

SHRISHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Much concern has been expressed during the discussion on Punjab Budget regarding the visit of Mr. William Clark to the disturbed areas of Punjab. The visit of Mr. William Clark is prior to the visit of the U.S. President. I would like to ask the Minister whether he will allow the Human Rights Commission people to tour that area. Whether it is desirable or whether he will allow them to visit that area?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: The visit of the Ambassador to Punjab has no relevance at all with other issues mentioned.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the Hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs did not mention, while replying to the question, about the news which appeared in the newspaper that they have accepted the Memorandum from AISSF. I fully agree with him that it is not at all possible for the Government of India to know what report has been sent to the U.S. Government by the U.S. Ambassador. May I know whether through your intelligence agencies, you have got a copy of the memorandum which had been submitted to the U.S. Ambassador. What are the contents? What action have you taken against that particular organisation? What instructions you have given that in future, if any such Ambassador visits, what should be the protocol, whether they are entitled to receive the memorandum

from those organisations who are directly involved with the terrorists and whose present policy is anti-India, which the Prime Minister, the Home Minister as well as the External Affairs Minister have condemned publicly that they do not accept the theory of AISSF or any such organisations?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Sir, as a matter of policy, it is not within the purview of any diplomat, while travelling, to receive any such memoranda. We have taken notice of what has been said in the press and we are looking into it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is all right that they have taken notice. This is a bad precedent that has been created. Some action has to be taken. Why are you afraid? I know as a Home Minister, first of all, he is not supposed to meet any terrorist? Why did he meet? What is your reaction? I want a specific reply from him.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yadvendra Datt.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: This is not fair. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: I would like to know from the Minister of External Affairs as to what was the compulsion or the reason that the American Ambassador was allowed to visit such a sensitive area. Why no official of the External Affairs Ministry had accompanied him and why was he allowed to accept memorandum from other organisations? Is it not an interference by a foreign agency into our internal affairs?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: I want to clarify one point. All the diplomats assigned to India, who are accredited to India, do travel in every part of India.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Gujral, you address the Chair.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: I am sorry, Sir.

Some months ago, there was a bar on diplomats travelling in Punjab. This bar was

removed some months back. So, diplomats have been going there. It is not that only the Ambassador had gone there. Several other diplomats have also gone there.

So far as accepting the memorandum etc. is concerned, as I have said, we are looking into it.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: I think, it is not proper for the Minister to try to evade a direct answer to the question. During the visit of Punjab of the U.S. Ambassador to India, he had received memorandum in Punjab from the Sikh Students Federation. This organisation demanded help from U.S.A. to realise the goal of Khalistan. This issue had been raised by me and others also before this House. Now, I want a categorical reply—it is not that you did not have much time; he visited on 10th August and now, we are in September—and it is no use telling that “we are looking into it”. I want a categorical reply whether he had been told categorically before undertaking the visit, that he should not do anything that would encourage terrorism in Punjab and the terrorists’ organisations. We know that these terrorist outfits are abettors. By sitting in U.S.A. they are trying to influence the policy of the U.S. Government. Many times they have sheltered them. They are helping them. What showing them this casual attitude? It is a very serious matter. I want a direct reply from him.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: As my colleague has just now said that the Ambassador visited India last month. So, it is not that it had happened long back. In the meantime, we are looking into things. But as yet, nothing adverse has come to our notice.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The written reply to this question says: “The Ministry has confirmed from the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi that the report mentioned was the U.S. Ambassador’s report to his Government on his Punjab visit.” While the Minister say that the contents of this secret report which the Ambassador is sending to his own Government may not be known and it cannot be

know perhaps to our Government.

But regarding his visit to the Punjab, the Government must surely be in the know. I would like to know from him, which were the places that the Ambassador visited during his Punjab visit, who are the people whom he met and talked with, and whether he is aware of the fact that Mr. Mann had come out openly with a statement appealing to the U.S. Ambassador to pressurize Government of India to concede the demand for Khalistan, and also to introduce a number of American types of aid and so on, to India. Is he aware of that, and who did he meet when he went to Punjab? When did he go?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: As my colleague has already said, he visited Patiala, Chandigarh, Amritsar and some areas on the border—non-restricted areas. During his visit, he met the Governor of Punjab, Governor of Haryana, G.O.C. Western Command, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police and some Punjab politicians like Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, Mr. Beant Singh, President of the Congress (I) and some others. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Choudhury, he has already said it; he has already revealed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Sofar as the statement of Mr. Mann is concerned, that is a matter of (*Interruptions*) concern to this House, to all of us.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The answer given by the hon. Minister is mostly what has already appeared in the newspapers, and is known. What this House is concerned about, and I think the whole nation will be concerned about, is the activities of an important country like that of United States, through its Ambassador, in going into a disturbed region, right up to the border, surveying, meeting people, practically collecting from them what Amnesty does, and doing also the human rights thing indirectly, taking memoranda from other organizations which are trying to destabilize and secede—all this. I

am not asking the Government to tell us what is already there. I would like to know: do the Government want to encourage, and if one Ambassador goes like this, what will stop the other Ambassadors also, of other countries going? Is your permission taken, or is your permission not required to go to these area, including border areas? I would like to know, directly, whether the permission or consent of the Government was obtained by the U.S. Ambassador before going to Punjab, and to border areas as has been stated. Will you allow similar permission to other Ambassadors of other countries also; and then what happens to our stability in that region, or if some people try to fish in troubled waters?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: My dear old friend Mr. Vasant Sathe, though he has not held this portfolio, is a very accomplished specialist on international affairs. He knows that Ambassadors, wherever they are designated, do travel in those countries. I have myself done it, and everybody does it. Punjab is not a closed area. That is a fact. Therefore, it is not only the American Ambassador, but several other Ambassadors have also gone to Punjab. The point I am trying to meet is that it is wrong to assume that Ambassadors travel on missions other than known, but it is a fact also that every Ambassador travelling in any other part of India, every part of India, does notify to us—not permission, but notification. So, we knew that he was going.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Even to border areas? He has not answered. Sir, I need your protection. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now next question, No. 410.

Capacity Utilisation of Hindustan Packaging

*410. SHRIBABUBHAIMEGHJISHAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the installed capacity of Hindustan Packaging for printing and Manufacturing of extruded, laminated paper and