

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The Hon. Member wanted to know the factors that were responsible for increasing the prices of cars and vans. Mainly two factors are responsible. One is an increase in the price of steel and another is an appreciation of the dollar. The Hon. Member also wanted to know how long the price which has been increased recently is going to be valid. I have consulted the officers in-charge of the company. They hope that the prices that have been increased recently may be valid for a period of one year. But if there is again an appreciation of the dollar and if there is an increase in the prices of inputs and all that, then the company may have to think of further increase. They hope that this price will be valid for one year.

About the components, the Company is very anxious to see that whatever indigenisation programme is there, it is adhered to. They are in constant dialogue with the component manufacturers. They have had already one meeting and they are going to have another meeting tomorrow at Madras. They are trying their best by giving technical assistance and all other assistance possible to see that whatever components are required, they are manufactured and the indigenisation programme is adhered to.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI : Is the Hon. Minister aware that the premium on Maruti car is more than its price? If so, what steps are being taken to check that?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : It is very difficult to say that Maruti Car is being sold in black because there is no distribution control and price control. Finance Ministry is trying to find out how Maruti Car is being sold or purchased with black money. I understand, and have information also that the Finance Ministry is taking some action in this regard.

[English]

Production of Fertilizers

*287. **SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of public and private sector units which are producing fertilizers in the country; and

(b) the total quantity of fertilizers produced in these units during the year 1984?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There are at present 38 major fertilizer units producing Nitrogenous and Phosphatic fertilizers of different grades. Of these, 24 units are in the public sector, 11 in the private sector and 3 in the cooperative sector. Besides, there are over 40 smaller units producing Single Super Phosphate.

(b) During the financial year 1984-85 (April, 1984-March, 1985), the final estimate of total production of fertilizers, based on actual production for 11 months and estimated production for one month, is 39.32 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen (Approx.) and 12.62 lakh tonnes of P_2O_5 , (Approx.). The sector-wise production would be as follows :—

	(Production in lakh tonnes)	
	Nitrogen	P_2O_5
Public Sector	18.52	3.47
Private Sector	15.58	5.65
Cooperative Sector	5.22	3.50
Total	39.32	12.62

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR SINGH RATHAWA : In view of the fact that the quantity of fertilizers being manufactured in the country is insufficient to meet the demand in the country, does the Hon. Minister propose to open new fertilizer factories and have the Gujarat Government sent any application for that purpose?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Our demand for fertilizer is more than the quantity produced. I have certain figures with me—the consumption for 1984-85 has been estimated to be 56.60 lakh tonnes against a production of 39.32 lakh tonnes. Thus, there is shortfall of 17.28 lakh tonnes. The short-fall is being met through import of fertilizer which are distributed amongst the farmers.

SHRI AMAR SINGH RATHAWA : In our country, there are many backward and Adivasi areas. There also, people have started using fertilizers but these are not available there. Has the Hon. Minister received any application for the setting up of a new fertiliser factory in a backward Adivasi area to meet their demands ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Action is being taken under the programme for the setting up of new plants included in the Sixth Five Year Plan. 4 plants are going to start production in the near future—two are in Thal and two in Hazira, and these are gas-based units. Work will be started on 6 more gas-based fertiliser plants and necessary action is being taken in that regard. But it is not possible to concede the Hon. Member's demand that the plant should be set up where there is demand because we have to instal the plant where the gas pipeline is available. Even if it is Naptha or fuel based plant, unless infrastructure and other facilities are available, the plant cannot be set up because a huge investment is required for these plants. The new plants which are coming up will need a capital investment of Rs. 600 to Rs. 650 crores. Therefore, it is not possible to fulfil the demand that a plant should be opened wherever there is demand.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : The Hon. Minister will be aware that there are fertiliser plants in Begusarai and Barauni but their production capacity is going down every year. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what steps are being taken by the Government to check this fall every year in production of fertilizers in Begusarai and Barauni plants ? The Hon. Minister has stated that setting up of new plants requires huge investment. But what is being done to increase the production capacity of the old plants which have been running for years and whose production capacity is going down ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The old plants were started with old technology. Unless we modernise them, there can neither be surplus nor profit. Therefore, we propose to modernise those old plants which have a scope of modernisation. But if the Hon. Member puts a separate question about Barauni, I shall be able to give a detailed reply to that.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated that shortfall in the production of fertilizer is met by imports. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state the name of the countries from whom the fertilisers are imported and the terms of agreement with those countries ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I do not have these details with me because our Ministry is concerned with production whereas import and its distribution is the responsibility of another Ministry. If the Hon. Member so wishes I will collect the information from the other Ministry and send it to him.

[English]

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : The Hon. Minister has already said something about fertilisers. I would like to know from the Hon Minister how many fertiliser factories will be opened during the Seventh Five Year Plan. In Tripura, we have enough gas. I would like to know whether a fertiliser factory will be opened in Tripura during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The Seventh Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised. I can only give this information after the Seventh Five Year Plan is finalised.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a Seventh Plan question.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : One gas based fertilizer plant in Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan has been entrusted to Shri Birla but so far not much work has been done on that project. As the Hon. Minister has stated he wants to ensure early production of fertiliser, I would like to know what steps are being taken in regard to gas based fertiliser plants entrusted to private sector so that production starts early and fertiliser is made available ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : All the parties which have been allotted gas based fertiliser plants have been clearly told of the zero date. They have been apprised of the whole programme. If any party does not adhere to that schedule and does not start work, we will give notice to it and the

plant will be allotted to some other party. There are parties who want to set up gas based fertiliser plants on behalf of their companies. There is no dearth of such people. If the party to whom the plant has been allotted does not take action, then we will think whether the allotment should remain with that party or it should be awarded to some other party.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you any intention of converting that party to zero or not ?

PROF. MADAU DANDAVATE : Do not allot it to the Congress Party.

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : The Hon. Minister has said that installation of the plant is possible at a place where the pipeline passes. The pipeline going from Guna passes via Tikamgarh. Tikamgarh district is industrially a very backward district and keeping in view the shortage of fertilisers, will the Hon. Minister set up a fertiliser plant there so that the people there get jobs and the fertilizer requirement of the country could also be met.

MR. SPEAKER : Only because the pipeline passes through that place.

SMT. VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : He has said that the plant can be set up at a place where the pipeline passes.

[English]

**Purchase of anchor-cum-supply Vessels
by O.N.G.C.**

*289. **SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission propose to purchase eight sophisticated anchor-cum-supply vessels from a South Korean concern; and

(b) if so, the number and cost thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) & (b). Yes, Sir, ONGC has placed an order on M/s. Samsung Korea for the fabrication of 8 offshore supply vessels each costing US \$ 4.979 million.

SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : It seems that, for the last couple of years, the ONGC has been going in for a lot a global tenders for the purchase of rigs, sophisticated anchor-cum-supply vessels, etc., etc., and it seems that all the orders are going to this one particular country. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether he has the details of other global tenders, whether global tenders were floated at all and if so, which are the other parties which had given their tenders for these anchor-cum-supply vessels ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is a fact that the ONGC float global tenders for its requirement wherever it is necessary. So far as these vessels are concerned, the ONGC floated a global tender, and 44 parties, in response to the global tender, offered tenders. Out of these, 37 parties were short-listed, and out of these 37 parties, only 24 parties, submitted revised bids in response to ONGC's request by the closing date, i.e., 23-5-1983. Out of these 24 parties, later on, twelve parties were found eligible. So far as the names are concerned, I would give the names of the parties. The names of these twelve parties are : Promet, Singapore; Samsung; Korea; Modec, Japan; Daewoo, Korea; Gul Engineering, Singapore; Asia Pacific, Singapore...

MR. SPEAKER : You may lay it on the Table.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : He wanted the names, Sir. That is why, I am reading.

SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : This information may be laid on the Table of the House. My second supplementary is this. There are many other companies which have been doing this in other countries. How is it that, for the ONGC, only the Koreans come out as the best, technical-wise and financial-ability-wise ? If you go into the details, I am sure you will find that there are also other companies doing a better job. May I know from the Hon Minister whether he is going to consider on merits other global tenders also and will he go into the details and look into it or he will leave it to the 'ONGC only ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : When global tenders are floated, then every