

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think he has got the statistics now.

### Transfer of Land Lease to Cooperative Societies

\*838. SHRI G. S. GHOLAP : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of Government regarding land belonging to Union Government given for manufacture of salt to the labour cooperative societies in different States ;

(b) whether it was given on scheduled rate or on tender basis;

(c) the normal practice in Maharashtra for leasing of Union Government land to the cooperative societies; and

(d) the action taken to remove the disparity, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). Government is assigning land for manufacture of salt by renewal of leases on scheduled rates. However, in case of virgin land, land resumed by the Government and land on which salt works have been constructed by the Government, land is assigned by inviting tenders. Certain concessions have, however, been extended to the Cooperative Societies of weaker sections viz. SC/ST/Adivasis etc., in cases where land is assigned by inviting tenders.

(c) Land under Government Salt works is assigned by inviting tenders. In the case of Cooperative Societies of weaker sections, concessions mentioned above are applicable.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI G. S. GHOLAP : It has been replied that the same procedure is followed throughout India. But in Maharashtra, specially in the Bombay region, there are four salt works where this procedure is not followed, where tenders are called. Especially

in the Janata regime, two Societies were fighting and, therefore, it was decided that tenders should be called. But previously no tenders were called and only scheduled rates were followed. Why is the same system not followed ? The Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee has also decided that the scheduled rates should be followed. The Advisory Board also has decided that the same procedure should be followed. So, what is the Government's decision ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : The leases in respect of these salt works are granted to cooperative sector for a period of three years on the basis of tenders. On the request of M/s. Sarvodaya Adivasi M.U.S.S. Ltd., the Government gave these four salt works to them on lease from 1-10-1957 to 30-9-1969 in different spells and on different lease amounts. Meanwhile, another Cooperative Society named Mithagar Kamgar Sahkari Sangh Ltd. requested the grant of lease of these salt works to them. The Government then decided to invite tenders for leasing these four salt works in two blocks of two salt works each. Because another Society came in, we had to invite tenders, but it was done much before.

Another point I would like to make is that the Maharashtra State Electricity Board has requisitioned these lands for installation of a thermal power station and as such, these salt works have been leased only upto 30-6-1985.

It is true that the Consultative Committee had made a recommendation that lease of land to labour cooperative societies should be for a period of 20 years on a ground rent at Rs. 2/- per acre per annum and assignment fee at Re. 1/- per tonne of salt produced and issued. But this recommendation was not accepted by the Government, and in the light of the requisition which has been made by the Maharashtra State Government for this land, I do not think any action is needed at this stage.

SHRI G. S. GHOLAP : Just now the Minister has stated that the land is under requisition or acquisition. We have received a letter in writing that this land was to be acquired, but the proposal has now been dropped. May I know whether the Govern-

ment will now consider extending the period of lease ?

**SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN :** If the Maharashtra Government intimates that they no longer need this land, then any suggestion which is made by the Hon. Member we shall certainly take note of.

#### Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant

**\*840. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ramagundam fertilizer plant ended up with an investment of Rs. 220 crores against the initial estimate of Rs. 2 crores only;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the capacity utilisation is far from optimal;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and since when;

(e) the steps taken to improve the production and the results thereof;

(f) whether guarantee tests were done on any of the individual plants or the plant as a whole as there had arisen a dispute between the foreign contractors; and

(g) for frequent technical trouble in the plant, what action has been taken by Government and whether responsibility has been fixed on the delinquent officers ?

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) :** (a) to (g). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) An investment of Rs. 217.90 crores has been made in the Ramagundam fertilizer plant against the initial estimate of Rs. 93.85 crores.

(b) The major reasons for cost escalation are—appreciation in the values of foreign

currencies; inflation; increase in interest rate; addition of Argon Gas recovery and pollution control systems and increase in financing charges due to extension in completion schedule.

(c) The Urea production and capacity utilisation figures based on 'achievable' capacity for the last three years are as under :

Year	Urea Production	Capacity utilisation
1982-83	1,62,664	49.29%
1983-84	1,75,068	53.05%
1984-85	2,03,090	61.54%

(d) The capacity utilisation was affected due to power cuts/voltage dips, equipment problems, extremely tight steam balance and non-availability of stand-by equipment in gasification and steam generation plant.

(e) Some short-term remedial measures like replacements of Raw Gas Pre-coolers with SS Coolers, NS Removal System, Epoxy lining of the Raw Gas line, etc., have been taken. For long-term remedial measures, an end-to-end survey is being undertaken by foreign consultants. Based on the recommendations of the foreign consultants, remedial measures shall be initiated.

(f) The guarantee tests were carried out on some the plants/equipments individually and not on the plant as a whole. There was no dispute with the foreign contractors.

(g) Frequent mechanical problems were due to design imbalances. The question of fixing responsibility on officers does not therefore, arise.

[Translation]

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the Hon. Minister when work on Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant was started, what its estimated cost was, what the actual cost on its completion was, when it was commissioned, what its production capacity was and what the quantum of production at present is.