

*the sum necessary to defray* the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1970 in respect of Other Revenue Expenditure of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation.

DEMAND NO. 125—CAPITAL  
OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY  
OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT  
AND REHABILITATION

That a sum not exceeding Rs.4,53,39,000 be granted to the President to complete *the sum necessary to defray* the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1970 in respect of Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will now proceed with the half-an-hour discussion.

18.34 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

FERTILISERS AND CHEMICALS  
TRAVANCORE LTD.

SHRI A. SREEHARAN (Badagara). I rise to initiate this half an hour discussion. I am fully aware of the so-called green revolution that is supposed to be taking place in various parts of this country, which is supposed to sweep our villages and to carry a ray of hope to every hearth and home.

But the fundamental bases of a green revolution are three, namely, improved seeds, fertilisers and rains at the proper time. That is why in this country which is struggling to make both ends meet in the matter of food, serious attention should be paid to the production of fertilisers and also their supply at a minimum cost to our cultivators.

I would like to use these two yardsticks to measure the performance of the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.

Sir, this concern is as old as 1947 when it was started by the Government of Travancore as a first-rate fertilisers factory as a State enterprise. Then it was making profits. But gradually, the performance and also the tone of management and the entire approach deteriorated with the passage of time. Before I go into the details, I would like to ask the Minister a very simple question. In 1968, an expert team of the Tennessee Valley Authority came to India it visited our fertiliser factories, reviewed the production of fertilisers in this country and then submitted a report. In that report, they have very categorically pointed out that all the public undertakings which manufacture fertilisers should be brought under one Corporation. This is a very sensible suggestion. Today, there are a number of fertiliser factories. Each has its own establishment; each has its own publicity machinery; each has its own army of vegetating pests of bureaucrats; each has its own liaison officers and each has its own plethora of guest houses. Why was this particular suggestion of the Tennessee Valley Authority is expert team not implemented: the suggestion that all the fertiliser factories in the public undertakings should be brought under one corporation? When the Government have implemented most of the other suggestions, I would like to know why this suggestion was not implemented. I am putting this question.

18.36 hrs.

[ SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR *In the Chair.* ]

When we come to the performance of this company, I want to pinpoint it because I feel that this company, if it is brought under one corporation, will be so organised that there will be more vigilance and more control. Things could improve there. What is the position of this company today? I have been knocking at the doors of this House for the last two years for justice in the matter of production in this concern. I had not much hopes when there was a different Minister. Today, Dr. Triguna Sen is there, and I hope

[ Shri A. Sreedharan ]

that the sincerity that is attributed to him will be brought into play in this matter also.

The Fertilisers and Chemicals, Travancore, Limited, has an installed capacity of 3,79,500 tonnes but the actual production is 1,73,776 tonnes. This is 46 per cent of the installed capacity. When we have been asking why there is a fall in production and why this concern has not caught up with the times, what has been the reply of the Government? It is not because it is a public undertaking. Take, for example, Sindri Fertiliser Factory, which is also a public undertaking. There, the production is nearly 80 per cent of the installed capacity. Take Trombay which again is a public undertaking; their production is 75 per cent of the installed capacity. But here, is a concern which is very old, which is going into the fourth stage of expansion. Take, for example, Cochin Refineries, which is very old door-steps of this concern. Its actual production is 102 per cent of the installed capacity. I want a categorical answer from the Minister.

I know the Managing Director of this concern has been going about in Delhi during the last two days campaigning against me and campaigning against Parliament taking up these issues. I know what dubious methods he has been using.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Shame, Shame.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : I do not want to go into them because I have the deepest respect for this august House. The reply given by the management for the shortage of production is that there had been power-cuts, and there have been labour strikes and because of that the company could not go into full capacity production. As I have stated, this company is in the fourth stage of expansion, and the production capacity has not even touched the second stage of its installed capacity. How could the Government explain this? How can the Managing Director or the management explain this? I am asking this question. In 1967 there has been no

power-cut; there has been precious little of labour trouble. In spite of that, the production has not shown any improvement. How could this contradiction be explained?

We have been pointing out that due to mismanagement, wasteful expenditure and all sorts of manipulations, this company was running at a loss. We submitted a memorandum to the then minister in charge requesting him to order a thorough probe. After a probe or enquiry—it was something of an official nature; it had no public character—came out with the reply that FACT is now showing profits.

The story of profits is very revealing. To some extent it is heart-rending when you think of the poor peasants who buy the fertilisers. I am not going into the prices at which fertiliser is being sold by private enterprise. I stand for public sector and I do not want to argue against my own faith. But here are unimpeachable facts. Both Sindri and FACT are producing ammonium sulphate. Sindri sells it at Rs. 284.81P. per tonne. FACT sells it at Rs. 576.74P. On a tonne, there is a difference of Rs. 291.93 P. Is this the type of profit you are showing? What is this Government doing? It is striking at the empty bellies of the poor peasantry. The life-blood is squeezed out of them. And, with courage, you come before the people saying, you are making profits. You are doing blackmarket on poverty and starvation.

The profits were not made purely from sales of fertilisers. In 1966-67, the company secured a central subsidy of Rs. 29.2 lakhs and it also got money from FEDO, the design organisation supervising the work of the Cochin Fertilisers. Now I understand the company has approached Government for a 10 per cent increase in price. This is how prices shoot high and profits are made. They have to raise prices because of wasteful expenditure. The minister has admitted there has been wasteful expenditure. We are certainly living in an age of publicity and propaganda, but I wonder why a public undertaking which produces ferti-

lisers should have so much publicity and propaganda when we are compelled to import fertilisers. They are sold like hot cakes in this country. Peasants knock at the doors of the depots, It is not because of advertisements in mushroom newspapers. In 1963-64, FACT spend on advertisement and propaganda Rs. 3.86 lakhs. In 1964-65 it was Rs. 4.71 lakhs and in 1966-67 it was Rs. 6.73 lakhs. It has doubled between 1963 and 1967.

Sir, here is the FACT magazine. If you persue it, at sevn places. you find the photograph of the Managing Director. This is being used for personal propaganda. Some newspapers have even proceeded to call him Mahatma K. K. Nair. When he went for collection of funds for Kela Mandalam, they said, that the only man who could collect so much after Mahatma Gandhi was Mahatma K. K. Nair. This is the type of personal propaganda that is going on.

I now come to another item of wasteful expenditure and that is about the expenses. The amount spent in 1964-65 was Rs.2,29,643 and in 1966-67 it was Rs. 5,65,580. I do not know what travelling they are doing, and this type of travelling expense, is at the cost of the people of this county. Over two exhibitions, one in Madras and the other in Delhi, this company has spent Rs.5 lakhs to Rs. 6 lakhs for each exhibition. This is from the public funds, Does the Government realise that there are 2.5 million lepers in this country, that there is not enough medicine to give them and that there are not enough leper homes to house them? Does it realise that the poor man's son is not getting university education because of paucity of funds? Does it realise that T. B. patients numbering many in my State do not get medical attention and enough medicines whereas money is allowed to go down the drains and to be eaten away by the wolves of bureaucracy? Is this the way it should be done?

From travelling expenses I come to guest houses. I know the Congress has a little interest in the FACT guest house because the FACT guest house in Delhi is owned by a Congress M.P. (*Interruption*). He was under shadow of some

suspicion some years back. I do not want to go into those details but if the hon. Minister is very particular in having the details I am preparred to pass it on to him. Because the person concerned happens to be a colleague of mine I do not want to mention his name here. What sort of guest houses these are I have pointed out on the floor of this House. After all, these serve for 'glorious nights' not only for officers of the Fertilisers and Chemicals but also many others. I request Dr. Triguna Sen to check up the log book of FACT guest houses and I can say that whether it be the Gnest Hoose in Madras or Delhi or Bombay he will find that these have been visited not only by the officers of Fertilisers and Chemicals. The other day I was passing through Alwaye when a top-most police official there told me that I was creating troubles for them because formerly if he went to the FACT guest house he used to get something hot where as he was not getting now because of some secret directive to cut down such entertainments. Here is something which has been admitted by Government itself.

This wonderful Managing Director conducted a 'snake puja' to step up production as if snakes have got something to do with production. This was done in the premises of the Fertiliser and Chemicals, Travancore. Sir, we are in a secular State as far as religion is concerned. We are living in a scientific age when man is going to land on moon. In this technological age there are managing directors of fertiliser factories holding snake pujas with a view to increase production.

Sir, a word about the sales organisation. You have in Delhi a sales organisation agent of FACT drawing a salary of Rs. 1000, and all that he sells is rose picks. When they have a big sales organisation here to sell fertilisers, to sell the other two products that they produce, namely sulphuric acid and ammonium chloride they have agencies all over the place. This ammonium chloride and sulphuric acid are consumed by factories like Travancore-Cochin Chemicals, Travancore Chemical Manufacturing Company, Sheshyee Wire Ropes and Aluminium Indus-

[Shri A. Shreedharan]

tries Ltd. These concerns are all around Fertilisers & Chemicals (Travancore) Limited and there is no sales agency required. Then, what is the purpose of this sales agency? The amount paid as commission in 1960 was Rs. 4.4 lakhs. In 1968 it rose to Rs. 38.7 lakhs. During the period 1960-68 while the sales went up by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  times, the commission went up by  $9\frac{1}{2}$  times.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** This is a half-an-hour discussion and the hon. Member has already taken 17 minutes. There are four other hon. Member who want to ask questions. So he should conclude now.

**SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :** I am concluding. These agencies are Messrs. Imperial Chemical Industries (India) Limited, G. V. Agencies, Bombay and Navjeevan Agency Printing works, Eranakulam. It is being done because the Managing Director gets a share in the commission. I am levelling this charge of corruption. Otherwise, there is no justification for giving this commission,

This Managing Director has consistently flouted the authority of the government. He criticised the language policy of the government; he criticised the budget of the government and he goes about presiding over Mohini Atams. And do you know what Mohini Atams is? If you are interested, I can explain it. Mohini goes and dances..... (*interruption*).

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** He should conclude now.

**SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :** He is also the President of the Ayyappa Seva Sangam. He is ignorant of fertilizers. He knows nothing about nitrates except that night rates are double the day rates!

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) .** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I listen to the Speech of the hon. Member with rapt attention. Instead of confining himself to the points which he has in his mind for today's discussion, the hon. member roamed round from China to Chile and sky to earth.

The points which he had given notice of are only three, namely, the failure of production to reach the installed capacity because of mismanagement, wasteful expenditure on many items because of official indifference and, thirdly, creation of top-heavy posts. These are the three points to which I will mostly confine. At the same time, while replying I will deal with some of the points like the comparison of prices between Sindri and FACT.

For the purpose of understanding whether the production is according to rated capacity or much below the rated capacity we have got to understand what is the installed capacity and what is the attainable capacity. As my hon. friend has stated, the third stage expansion has been completed and the plant has been commissioned with the result today the capacity is 70,000 tonnes of nitrogen and 33,500 tonnes of  $P_2O_5$ . Now, on account of shortage of power nearly about 5 electrolyzers out of 8 were sold to Nangal Fertilizers. The result was that the capacity of the plant was reduced to 62,000 tonnes.

Now, it is always good if we are able to reach the rated capacity, but many times it so happens that on account of several other difficulties with which a particular plant is confronted, it will not be possible to reach the rated capacity. Then we have to see what is the attainable capacity. The attainable capacity of this plant is 55,000 tonnes of nitrogen and about 33,500 tonnes of  $P_2O_5$ . Now, it is true that the production of this plant in 1966-67 was 44.5 per cent of its attainable capacity, in 1967-68 it was 47.49 per cent and in 1968-69 it was 64.5 per cent of its attainable capacity.

The hon. Member made a reference to the power shortages and the interruptions of power. Regarding the power shortages, I may give an analysis so that the hon. Member may be able to appreciate the difficulties of the plant. During 1963-64, as against the normal demand of 31000 KW of power, the Company was never Supplied beyond 23000 KW of power. At certain periods in the years, this was even reduced to 14000 KW of power. In 1964-65, there were severe power cuts. During that year

also, from April to June, the supply fluctuated between 14000 and 8000 KW of power against the normal demand of 31000 KW of power. In 1965-66, the supply was reduced to 19000 KW of power from November, 1965 and further to 14000 KW of power from December, 1965. A complete shut down had to be taken from 26th February, 1966 to 25th April, 1966. In the year 1966-67, the restriction in the previous year continued till the monsoon of 1966-67. Thereafter, the power was gradually released, coming upto the optimum level in July, 1967. In 1967-68... (Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

SHRI D.R. CHAVAN : Why dont you put a question after I have finished ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't interrupt like that. Let the Minister reply.

श्री इसहाक सम्भली (धमरोहा) :  
मानरेबुल मिनिसटर जो यह बराबर बतला रहे हैं कि पबलिक सैंक्टर में कमी हो रही है तो उनसे मैं यह मासूम करना चाहता हूँ कि उसको हल करने के लिए उन्होंने क्या कदम उठाया है ? पबलिक सैंक्टर में कमी हुई उसके लिए सिर्फ यह कह देना कि हमें भफसोस है यह कोई जबाब नहीं है। पबलिक सैंक्टर के लिए जो बराबर कहा जाता है कि पैदावार में कमी हो रही है उस को सोल्व करने के लिए और उस कमी को दूर करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं यह मंत्री जी बतलाने की कृपा करें।

شہزاد اسماعیل اسماعیل  
آپنی خدمت میں شکر گزار ہوں اور میں ایک سیکورٹی کی  
خبریں ہیں اور ان سے میں یہ معلوم کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اس کو حل کرنے کے  
لئے کون سے اقدام اٹھائے گئے ہیں۔ ایک سیکورٹی کی خبریں اس کے لئے صرف  
یہ کہہ دینا کہ ہمیں اس سے یہ کوئی جواب نہیں ہے۔ ایک سیکورٹی  
کے لئے جو اقدام کیا جاتا ہے کہ یہ لپور میں کی خبریں ہیں اس کو  
سیکورٹی کے لئے اس کو اس کی خبریں کے لئے ایک اقدام اٹھانے جا رہے  
ہیں یہ خبریں سننے کی کیا ہیں۔

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : Will you please listen to me ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a Half-An-Hour discussion. There is a procedure for asking questions. There are some names before me. I request Members not to waste the time of the House by interrupting like this.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : I have given the analysis of the power shortages and, as a result of that, the production has not been upto the attainable capacity.

Now, the hon. Member made a reference to a very pertinent question as to what has been done. As a matter of fact, the matter was taken up with the State Government of Kerala and the Kerala State Electricity Board and, as a result of the steps taken, a Committee consisting of the representatives of the Government of Kerala, the State Electricity Board and also certain users was appointed to go into the problems of distribution. My hon. friend asked what has been done. These were the steps taken. As a matter of fact, it is not that the Managing Director was sitting cross-legged. (Interruption) I am not yielding. please don't interrupt me, I did not interrupt you. I was talking about the power shortages. Then, much more serious is the power interruptions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly be brief in your reply because the time is very short.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : I am only replying to two or three points. you have given him a lot of time. Therefore, let me also reply to him.

19 hrs.

Now, regarding the power interruptions, between 1963-64 to 1967-68, to about 780 power interruptions were there. As a result of the power interruptions, the loss of production to the plant was about 60,800 tonnes of ammonia during the period of five years, from 1963-64 to 1967-68. This was the loss of production to the plant. As I said, it was mainly on

[ Shri D. R. Chavan ]

account of the shortages of power and a more serious thing was the power interruptions. The production went down due to these things. Therefore, power shortage and interruption are mainly responsible for the shortfall in production. Immediately the matter was taken up in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals. The Secretary, Mr. Naik, who is considered to be one of eminent and brilliant officers of the Government of India, looked into the problem by going to the spot and he came to certain conclusions concerning wasteful expenditure and other things to which I will come later. When the production was going down, as a matter of fact, the Government of India appointed a committee of experts called the Sharma Committee. That Committee went into this problem and made certain recommendations which are of a technical nature. Those recommendations are being implemented. In fact, some of the recommendations have been implemented, and as a result of that, the production is improving. The production which was only 44 per cent has gone up to 64 per cent; from 26,000 tonnes it has gone beyond 35,000 tonnes.

Regarding some of the allegations which were made and which were contained in the Memorandum submitted to the then Minister, were of two types—allegations of a personal nature and allegations concerning wasteful expenditure. On receipt of this Memorandum, it was the Managing Director of the FACT who demanded an inquiry into the matter, and as a result of that request made, the Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals was appointed to go into the matter and he went into the matter and reached certain conclusions...

**SHRI A. SHREEDHARAN :** In our Memorandum the demand was for, for a public inquiry, an inquiry by a Parliamentary Committee. We do not trust your Ministry or your Secretary (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** He has no confidence in the Secretary; he has no confidence in the committee of directors that has been appointed to go into it.

May I tell him that the Committee on Public Undertakings is already seized of the matter? That Committee is going into it. (*Interruption*) I understand that the report of the Committee is in the final stages and it is likely to be placed on the Table of the House. It would be available to the hon. Member, and he can take up this matter and discuss it again. The hon. Member should know that the Committee on Public Undertakings has gone into it and, as I said, practically the Committee is giving final touches to the report which is likely to be placed on the Table of the House and which would be available to the hon. Member; he can take it up and discuss it. These are the points about shortfall in production.

About wasteful expenditure, to which a reference was made by my hon. friend, the Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, has gone into it. A Committee consisting of directors has been appointed to go into this.

The hon. Member made a reference to the Managing Director. The Managing Director is not here to defend himself. May I tell him what has been stated by the Government of Kerala, by the Minister for Industries of Kerala, when similar questions were raised on the floor of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, about the Managing Director? The Minister for Industries has categorically stated, when similar questions were raised in the Kerala Legislative Assembly, that there has been only growth and prosperity for the company ever since Mr. M. K. K. Nair took over.

**SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :** That is not binding on me.

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** This is the statement of the Minister for Industries.

**SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :** Mr. E. M. S. Namboodiripad has said about your Government also. Why don't you quote that? (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** This is the statement of the Minister for Industries of Kerala Government. The Kerala

Government is very much interested in the prosperity of the plant. They are also interested in the prosperity of this plant because they have put in some money. There is the investment of the Kerala Government also in the factory. The Kerala Government is also very keen that the FACT plant runs satisfactorily. I have mentioned about this and, therefore, all the allegations that have been made by my friend are not fair because the person is not here to defend himself and when in the local legislature when this point was raised, the Industries Minister has given him a chit, has given him a glowing tribute. Therefore, I find that there is no point except that my hon friend is prejudiced against that person.

**SHRI A SREEDHARAN :** He is bringing a serious allegation against me. I am not prejudiced. How can you say that I am prejudiced? You may be prejudiced in his favour.

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** That is my inference. He made a reference to Sindri fertiliser plant and said that the Sindri fertilisers are sold at a rate of Rs. 244 per tonne. It is not correct. The price is Rs. 502. Therefore, the hon. Member must base his argument on information which is correct and not on false information. Rs. 502 is the price of Sindri fertiliser and not Rs. 244. The Committee on Public Undertakings is seized of this matter and their report is likely to be placed on the Table of the House. I trust all the aspects of the question that have been raised by my friend must have been gone into by the Members of the Committee on Public Undertakings and a comprehensive report will be laid on the Table of the House.

**SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTI rose—**

**MR CHAIRMAN:** Shri Shiva Chandra Jha.

**SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY (Cuddalore) :** I am not putting question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No please. Nothing can be allowed. Only the four names before me will be allowed.

**SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY :** Please do not misunderstand me. I am suggesting to you. I am a member of the House. I want to make a submission. He made a clear point that the entire fertiliser production can be brought under one. He has not answered that. I am suggesting to you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I hope he will clear that point when some other members put some questions to him.

**श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) :** मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर के खिलाफ बहुत सी शिकायतें आई हैं और मंत्री महोदय ने सफाई देने की भी कोशिश की है। उन्होंने केरल के मंत्री के जबाब का भी सहारा लिया है। लेकिन इस सब के बावजूद शक बना ही रहता है। इतने बड़े पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर के खिलाफ इस तरह की शिकायतें हों, यह ठीक नहीं है। शक को हमेशा के लिए दूर करने के लिये क्या मंत्री महोदय सी० वी० आई० द्वारा इस सारे मामले की जांच करायेंगे ताकि पता चल सके कि क्रस्पशन की जो बात उनके खिलाफ है वह कहां तक सही है और कहां तक नहीं है?

जनवरी 1968 में एक टीम मुकरंर की गई थी इस फर्टिलाइजर फैक्टरी के मैनेजमेंट के बारे में सुधारों की सिफारिश करने के लिए। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसकी रिक्मेंडेशंस को कहां तक प्रमल में लाया गया है?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उस टीम ने वर्कर्स के मैनेजमेंट पाटिसिपेशन के बारे में भी कोई सिफारिश की है? यदि की है तो वह क्या है? यदि नहीं की है तो वहां के मजदूर यह समझें कि यह जो कम्पनी है यह हमारी है और इसका प्रोडक्शन हमको बढ़ाना चाहिये, इसके बारे में सरकार क्या सोच रही है और क्या सरकार वर्कर्स पाटिसिपेशन इन मैनेजमेंट के बारे में कोई प्लान रखेगी?

[ Shri N. K. Somani ]

मैं अन्तिम सवाल यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस कम्पनी को चलाने में क्या कारेन एक्सचेंज अभी भी आपकी खर्च करनी पड़ती है और अगर करनी पड़ती है तो कितनी और उसका प्रतिशत क्या है ?

**SHRI N. K. SOMANI (Nagpur) :** Talking about questions of management, production and distribution of fertiliser in this country whether it is FACT, FCI, Trombay or other units, one has to keep in mind the vital stakes this country has to face in terms of achieving food sufficiency as per the Planning Commission targets by 1973-74. Coming directly to this question, on 24th February, the hon. Minister in answer to section (b) of the original question put by Shri Sreedharan said that losses due to theft, misappropriation and irregularities alleged to have been committed in this particular plant are under investigation and as soon as these facts have been collected, they would be placed on the Table of the House. There is a strong suspicion in the minds of several people who have studied the operations of FACT very closely that all is not well in this organization. That is why it has been a subject several inquiries and, therefore, not only from this particular half-an-hour debate point of view but from all other points of view the Minister should have by now *suo motu* placed all the information before the House. If he has already done it, I will withdraw my remarks. The one aspect that I have been trying to raise often is about the recommendations made by the TVA and the question which was raised by Shri Sreedharan was not answered by the Minister. To my mind, most of the reports must be carefully and promptly reviewed once for all and whatever decisions have to be taken should be taken in a very reasonable period of time so that either from the relevance point of view or propriety point of view no further delay is brought into such considerations. Since April 1968, the Minister, said, the Technical Experts Committee's considerations are still under examination. Why does it take so long for the Government, is a thing which I am unable to understand.

I do not think this delay is fully justified. I would like to ask this from the hon. Minister for reply. Dr. Triguna Sen soon after taking over convened the meeting of the fertiliser heads from various parts of the country to discuss all these problems of the fertiliser complex in the public sector in a thorough manner. If I would crave his indulgence, may I know whether he will take the House into confidence and tell us as to what is in store as far as improvement in fertiliser production is concerned from production, planning, marketing, manning and other points of view? I would ask the last question. What is the element of profit that you allow in the matter of pricing of these fertiliser products? It is essential that our farmers get it at reasonable price which is a remunerative to them. Do you allow it on the basis of 12% on the total capital employed as is normally accepted as norm by Tariff Commission with regard to similar industries? Is it less or more? That is what I want to know on FACT price.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** These are all general questions.

**SHRI N. K. SOMANI :** On FACT price.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** (Udipi) I would like to know from the socialist parties in this House.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :** (Diamond Harbour) On a point of order. We are not in the Government.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Address the Minister.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** This is a very important issue. On the one hand they have the private sector condemned. We are having Mr. Birla on a plate on Friday. On the other hand today the public sector is being condemned. I would like to know whether we want any industry in this country at all. We find that no management is satisfactory. Shall we entrust it as suggested by the hon. Member to a committee of the House? This is my first question.



The second question is this. Is this House to become a kind of Star Chamber where no officer is safe? There is a prescribed procedure and in this case there is a prescribed body of the House, the Public Undertakings committee. What is the necessity for bringing this up here when that officer is not here to defend himself? This is an important question. You destroy the confidence of the Government servants if you are going to do that.

**SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :** You are supporting the IAS officers. You cannot do it.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** I have every right. It won't support anyone who is vindictive.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Questions can be addressed to the Minister.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** I am addressing the third question to the Minister. The other questions were addressed to proper quarters and they are also important.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** That can be done outside the House.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :** He is apprehending that we may come to Government very soon.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** My question is this, Mr. Sreedharan made it as though the production was far short of the targets. I have got the report of the Planning Commission which shows that in respect of fertilisers against the target of 1050 thousand tonnes the achievement has been 550 thousand tonnes would like to know from the Minister whether this factory is not doing better than some of the rest of the factories? What is this Government going to do to see that fertiliser factories work up to their capacity? Until that is done, there is no point in expanding fertiliser factories so to three million tonnes as is proposed in this book.

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** Mr. Chairman, the first speaker who initiated the discussion asked: Why not a Committee

of Parliament be appointed to go into the matter? When I replied that we have already done that, immediately another member of the same Party...

**AN HON. MEMBER :** Not of the same Party.

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** May be his neighbour: Whatever it is, I replied that a Parliamentary Committee is seized of the matter and their report will be placed on the Table of the House. Immediately, another Member, may not be of the same Party, but his neighbour, asked: Why not refer it to the CBI? Assuming that this has been done, then another Member will ask: Why not a judicial enquiry? Sir, I am not prepared to accept their demand that this should be referred to CBI when a Parliamentary Committee is seized of the matter. I am glad that Shri Lobo Prabhu has given proper replies to both of the Hon. friends. He asked: When the Parliamentary Committee is seized of the matter, why has this matter been taken up for discussion? I cannot understand it. This question has been repeatedly raised here, elaborate supplementaries were asked and answered. Again this matter has been brought up on the Floor of the House through a half-an-hour discussion, even after questions, supplementaries (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :** This is very serious. This is a democracy. (*Interruptions*).

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Will you please sit down? I am on my legs.

**SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY :** He is casting aspersions on this House. He should withdraw that remark.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Hon. Members are expected to pursue matters which they think are important. It is their inherent right to pursue matters which they consider important in a way which they consider best. Therefore, the Hon. Minister cannot take objection to that.

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** It is their right. I am sorry if their feelings were hurt.

Shri Lobo Prabhu raised certain points about the element of profit and so on. I have to look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There was another question raised about a proposal by an American team to have a corporation for all these projects. Some Hon. members wanted to know this and therefore I am putting this question.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : About the technical committee which was appointed, I said that many of their recommendations have been implemented; some are yet to be implemented...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not that. The question was different,

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : The question is whether this should be a project under the Fertiliser Corporation of India. I will not be able to answer this question at this stage because it is a matter of policy and I will have to look into it.

Therefore, I may not be able to answer that during this discussion.

Shri Somani asked about the element of profit involved. I will not be able to

answer it at this time as I have to look into the element of profit and compare it with other fertiliser factories.

Shri Lobo Prabhu asked about the installed capacity. So far as other existing factories in operation are concerned, their installed capacity is about 10.5 lakh tonnes. The production is about 5.5 lakh to 6 lakh tonnes; it comes to 64 or 65 per cent of rated capacity.

Here as I said, in 1967-68, the plant attained 64 per cent of its attainable capacity. The existing plants in operation are also running at a little below rated capacity, not the full capacity. It is 66-67 per cent of the rated capacity.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI : What about losses and misappropriations ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 A. M. tomorrow.

19.22 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven  
of the Clock on Thursday, April 24,  
1969, Vaisākha 4, 1891 (Saka).*