

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Tuesday, August 5, 1986/ Sravana 14,
1908 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :
Sir, before we take up questions let us condemn the attitude and stand taken by Britain in the mini-Commonwealth Summit. It has been a failure.

MR. SPEAKER : We have done it. All the rest have done it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The Chair should move a resolution.

MR. SPEAKER : They themselves stand condemned by all the others. They are outcasts.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :
On behalf of the whole House, Sir, you deal with the situation as it demands.

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow we are discussing South Africa and then we will do it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Is it under Rule 193 ?

MR. SPEAKER : We will do something of the sort.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Let it be under Rule 193. Some of us are not so lucky at the ballot.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Government is bringing a motion under which it will be discussed.

[*English*]

SHRI D. N. REDDY : Shri Eeswara Reddy, ex-Member of Parliament represented my constituency Cuddapah. He expired last Sunday in Proddutur. I request you to make a mention of it in the House.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : You give in writing.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Shortage of industrial alcohol and rectified spirit in West Bengal

*265. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of alcohol-based industries in West Bengal which are suffering due to non-availability of industrial alcohol and rectified spirit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the supply in West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :
(a) to (c). Duty free import of denatured alcohol is being permitted since February 1985 in view of insufficient indigenous availability. Industrial units in West Bengal have

been granted permissions for duty-free import of 327 lakh litres of denatured alcohol. Allocations have also been made for supplies of both denatured and rectified spirit form U. P. and Maharashtra.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : Sir, in West Bengal a wide range of industries, namely, polythene, shellac, drugs and pharmaceuticals, rubber and chemicals, pesticides and printing inks need industrial alcohol. Nearly 2 lakh workers are involved with these industries. These industries have been hard hit because of non-availability of industrial alcohol. Under the circumstances I want to know from the Minister whether last year during the period from March to November, U. P. only supplied 6 lakh litres of industrial alcohol whereas the Central Molasses Board allotted 101.15 lakh litres for West Bengal ?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, we are aware that West Bengal is traditionally a deficient State in availability of molasses and alcohol. Shri Das Muni, Member of Parliament had written to us. The Chief Minister of West Bengal has also written to the Prime Minister' *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Is it the same Das Muni who is a member of the Congress (I) ?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : At the request of the Chief Minister we have allotted 100 lakh litres of alcohol from U. P. which has already been released.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : My definite question was that during March-November period why only 6 lakh litres were released while the allotment was 101.15 lakh litres ? Is the Government aware of this fact ?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, in July, 1986 the Excise Secretary, Government of U. P. had sent us a telex intimating that additional surplus quantity of 3 lakh litres of denatured spirit was available and this has already been allocated to the deficit States including 50 lakh litres to West Bengal.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : Sir, last year U.P. produced 1530.60 lakh litres of industrial

alcohol and it consumed only 632.90 lakh litres. Therefore, U. P. is surplus by nearly 900 lakhs litres of industrial alcohol. Why has U. P. declared itself a deficit State and is expressing its unwillingness to export industrial alcohol to other States ?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : The West Bengal government had put forward a demand of 560 lakh litres of potable alcohol for the year 1985-86. Almost the same demand was made during the last year also.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : I was saying that UP has a surplus of 900 lakh litres of industrial alcohol, but it has declare itself a deficit State. How is it so ? Two lakh workers are going to be retrenched because of non-availability of industrial alcohol in West Bengal. What is your reaction ? Why has UP violated the award of the Central Molasses Board regarding the allotment of alcohol ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : By mistake, they might have used it for drinking.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : In the begining of May 1985, UP informed us that 250 lakh litres of rectified spirit and absolute alcohol was surplus to their requirements. Of this, 100 lakh litres was allotted to West Bengal.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : He is not understanding the question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER. He wants to know why UP has declared itself as a deficit State.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : UP has declared some surplus stock and out of that 100 lakh litres have already been allotted to West Bengal.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the production of molasses which is one of the main raw materials in the production

of Alcohol has considerably gone down in Uttar Pradesh in the recent past and at the same time the demand from molasses and alcohol based industries has increased. Efforts are also being made to set up new units. In view of this, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether Government propose to impose restriction on the quota of alcohol or molasses meant for export from the State? Beside, will the Government permit setting up of molasses and alcohol based industries in 'No-Industry Districts' in view of persistent demand?

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : The UP Government has declared surplus in molasses. We are aware of the problems of short-supply of alcohol throughout the country. That is why duty-free import of spirit has been allowed.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Sir, my question has not been replied to. I had asked whether in view of the increasing demand for molasses and alcohol and their falling production in Uttar Pradesh, will the Government stop exporting molasses and alcohol from the State and permit setting up of molasses and alcohol based industries in 'No-Industry Districts'?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Have you got anything to say to that question?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : As I have rightly stated, the problems of short supply of alcohol are felt from the very beginning of last year. In view of this and in order to maintain the production of chemical items in the country, it was decided that duty free import of denatured spirit may be allowed. So, the Government of India has allowed duty free import of alcohol to meet the demand.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : The Hon. Minister has just now stated that the Government is aware of the shortage of industrial alcohol in several parts of the country. We have this molasses control order under which

the Government has got control over all the molasses produced in the sugar factories and that is the feed stock for extracting alcohol. But in view of the fact that there is no control over the molasses produced in the small scale Khandasari factories, will the Government extend the molasses control order to the Khandasari factories also, so that they can have control over the surplus molasses there, instead of importing alcohol?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : Sir, this question of bringing Khandasari molasses under the ambit of control-process is under consideration. The main factor that has led the Government to desist from any such control in the past is that the Khandasari molasses is very difficult to store. And this sale of molasses on a freely available basis has been helpful to the small cane growers; and the cane growers' representative has also been representing that this Khandasari molasses should be free, without control. We will consider this aspect. Actually, the Central Molasses Board has taken up this question. We will certainly keep the suggestion made by the Hon. Member in mind.

MR. SPEAKER : Leave alone drinking alcohol; we should also not talk much about alcohol.

New Coal Project

***266. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA** : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to start a number of new coal projects to increase the production of coal in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. With a view to increasing coal production, 16 coal projects with a total production capacity of 39.20 million tonnes per year at a total capital outlay of Rs. 1661.69 crores have been sanctioned by the Government during the year 1985-86. During the current financial year, to more projects have been sanctioned.