

trying our best to get these products from Government companies of various countries whom we are approaching. We are confident, Sir, that we will be able to make up the shortfall. We have no intention of introducing rationing. That would create more problems. But, at the same time, we have urged the State Governments to streamline their distribution system and to see that there is no misuse.

Low Production of Fertilizers

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*22. SHRI CHHANGUR RAM:

SHRI V. S. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fertilizer plants in the country have been operating much below their rated capacity and the losses in the production of fertilizers have been mounting;

(b) if so, the estimated loss and loss in terms of value at the international price in the production of fertilizers anticipated during the current financial year;

(c) the reasons for the sharp decline in the production of fertilizers as a result of (a) above; and

(d) the estimated quantity (with value in terms of foreign exchange) the country would have to import to meet the shortage in fertilizers because of decline in the domestic output?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). The production of fertilizers has been seriously affected in 1980-81 due to a number of factors such as power cuts, power problems, disruption and stoppage of feedstock supplies to a number of fertilizer plants in the wake

of the Assam agitation, labour problems, etc. The loss of production as a result of these problems is estimated to be about 7 lakh tonnes of nitrogen, valued at Rs. 300 crores.

(d) The gap between demand and indigenous production is met by imports. It is not in the public interest to disclose the estimated quantity and value of imports for the current year.

श्री छांगुर राम : उपाध्यक्ष जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी स्वीकार किया है कि फर्टिलाइजर के उत्पादन में देश में कमी हो रही है लेकिन उन्होंने यह बताने से इंकार किया है कि देश में मांग की पूर्ति के लिए वे कितना फर्टिलाइजर विदेशों से मंगायेंगे और उसकी कितने रुपये लागत होगी। इस बारे में उन्होंने कहा है कि यह बताना जनहित में नहीं है।

उपाध्यक्ष जी, यह देश की एक सर्वोच्च संस्था है और यहां इसके बारे में बताना वे ठीक नहीं समझते। 18 नवम्बर को डिप्टी मिनिस्टर फाइनेंस का बयान आता है कि 15 सौ करोड़ रुपये की लागत का फर्टिलाइजर सरकार बाहर से मंगاتی है। यह उनका बयान है। 23 अक्टूबर को प्रधान मंत्री जी ने फर्टिलाइजर से सम्बन्धित मीनीयर आफिसर्स की मीटिंग बुलाई थी और उसमें उन्होंने कहा था कि हमारे देश में फर्टिलाइजर का उत्पादन कम हो रहा है और इस तरह से दो हजार टन यूरिया का प्रतिदिन उत्पादन कम हो रहा है। इसकी लागत अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में 40 लाख रुपये है और इस वर्ष इसकी कमी को पूरा करने के लिए हमें एक हजार करोड़ रुपये का फर्टिलाइजर बाहर से और मंगाना पड़ेगा।

उपाध्यक्ष जी, यह चीज अखबार में आ जाती है और मीटिंग में कह दी

जाती है जो कि पब्लिक में भी आ जाती है लेकिन जो यह सर्वोच्च संस्था है, यहां इस चीज़ को बताना वे जनहित में नहीं समझते। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो उनका बयान अखबारों में आया और अफिसर्स की मीटिंग में जो बात कही गयी क्या वह सही है ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: It is known to the Honourable Members of Parliament that the fertiliser consumption of the nitrogenous fertilizer was about 34.98 lakh tonnes during last year. This year, the demand put up by the Ministry of Agriculture is in the vicinity of about 36 lakh tonnes. As far as the production of nitrogenous fertiliser is concerned, as I have said, we would not be able to reach more than 22.5 lakh tonnes. Although I have called the meeting of the concerned Chief Ministers and insisted on them that they should try to reach a figure of at least 24 lakh tones but, even then, if the consumption remains 12 lakh tonnes, the shortfall would be 36 lakh tonnes. Now it is not possible for me to say how much the Ministry of Agriculture will import.

श्री छांगुर राम : गोरखपुर का फर्टिलाइज़र प्लांट सब में अच्छा है और कानपुर का भी अच्छा है। गोरखपुर प्लांट की उत्पादन क्षमता 500 टन है और उत्पादन हो रहा है 320 टन। वैसे ही कानपुर प्लांट की उत्पादन क्षमता है 850 टन और उत्पादन हो रहा है 500 टन। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जैसा कि प्रधान मंत्री जी ने अक्टूबर की मीटिंग में यह कहा था कि नेफ्था की कमी है जिसके कारण उत्पादन कम हो रहा है, उस कमी को दूर करने के लिए आपने क्या प्रयास किया है ? बिजली की कमी और असम आन्दोलन के कारण तो कमी है लेकिन आप नेफ्था की कमी के कारण जो हमारे उत्पादन पर प्रभाव पड़ रहा है उसको दूर करने के लिए क्या कर रहे हैं ?

श्री प्रकाश चन्द्र सेठी : मान्यवर, जहां तक गोरखपुर प्लांट का सवाल है, अप्रैल से सितम्बर तक 28500 टन के उत्पादन का नुकसान केवल बिजली की वजह से हुआ। फीड स्टॉक की कमी की वजह से 1500 टन का नुकसान हुआ। जहां तक कानपुर का सवाल है फीड स्टॉक की कमी की वजह से 44000 टन का नुकसान हुआ, जबकि बिजली की कमी की वजह से 12000 टन का नुकसान हुआ। बरौनी रिफाइनरी बन्द रहने की वजह से नेफ्था की सप्लाई में कठिनाई है। एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर से बातचीत करने के बाद कुछ बेलेंस स्ट्राइक किया गया है, लेकिन इसमें नेफ्था मूव करने से डीज़ल मूवमेंट में कमी आती है। एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर का जो खयाल है, उससे हम भी सहमत हैं। किसानों की रबी सीज़न की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए डीज़ल के मूवमेंट में कमी नहीं आनी चाहिए इसलिए नेफ्था की सप्लाई हम दूसरी जगह से नहीं कर पा रहे हैं, लेकिन कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि अक्टूबर-नवंबर में उत्पादन बढ़ाएं लेकिन नेफ्था की कमी अब भी पूरी नहीं हो रही है।

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: I want to know whether the fertilizer plants are working much below their capacity. If so, what steps are being taken to use their full capacity?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: If you take the average production of fertilizer plants in India, taken all together, even though some of the plants like the Madras Fertilizers are working at the capacity of 106 per cent, the overall percentage is 51, which is much below. If the power cuts are restored and the feed stock could be made available and if the labour situation which had worsened and which is still continuing in the Goa plant, which is closed for the last three months, improves, the rated capa-

city which they can work would be about 70 to 80 per cent.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The hon. Minister has stated that there is a fall in production of fertilizer, the difference between our total demand and the indigenous production would be in the vicinity of 12 lakh tonnes, and that is to be imported if we are to meet the requirements of our country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are giving the answer also. Put the question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I think you would agree that the international price of fertilizer is on the increase. In this context, would the Government assure that there will be no further rise in the price of fertilizer, which is already very high, in view of the fact that there has been a wide-spread movement all over the country, including in your State, for the reduction in the cost of agricultural inputs? Would the Government give an assurance to the House that there will be no further rise in the fertilizer prices?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, as far as the question of any increase or decrease in the fertilizers is concerned, I am afraid I am not in a position to say anything about this because it is for the other Ministry to decide in view of the given situation.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while replying the hon. Minister said that the plants have been affected due to shortage of power and labour trouble etc. Not only that. There are certain plants like the Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant which is coal-based, in Andhra Pradesh. The construction of that plant started about 12 years back, but I would like to inform the House and also the hon. Minister may be knowing that last time the Minister said that it was ready, but unfor-

tunately, it has not yet started producing the fertilizers. I want to know the reason. You may give the reason that it is due to shortage of power, but in Andhra Pradesh there is no shortage of power. When that is the fact, why are you not able to start this plant? I want to know this. Also, I want to know when you are going to start.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The hon. Member is right in saying that there is no shortage of power in Andhra Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh Government has given us the requisite power and not only the Ramagundam plant alone, but Talcher and Ramagundam, both coal-based fertilizer plants, have gone into commercial production from 1st November.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Sir, the Minister has given several reasons for poor production of the fertilizer plants in the country. He said that it is due to shortage of power etc. As Mr. Satyanarayan Rao said about the defects in Ramagundam, I can say that in the Durgapur Fertilizer plant part of Hindustan fertilizer plant, due to the technical defects the production is not coming up. I, as President of that employees' union affiliated to CITU, wrote a detailed letter last year about what are the technical defects and stated that they should be removed. But the answer was not satisfactory. So, I would like to know from the Minister (*Interruption*) the constructive suggestions to remove the technical defects so that the production of the fertiliser plant in Durgapur can come up. I want a categorical answer as to whether those points would be considered and the technical defects of Durgapur fertilizer plant would be removed as far as possible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: But your question was not categorical!

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, I am not aware of the hon. Member's letter

which he wrote last year. What I can say is that Durgapur has been a sick child from the very beginning and a team was invited from outside to correct the technical defects and some improvements have taken place. But I fully agree with the hon. Member that it has not yet been fully corrected. We will try to adopt all possible measures to see that the technical defects are removed as early as possible.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: The total production capacity of fertilizer units in this country is about 3.5 million tonnes. Is it a fact that only 1.5 million tonnes are being produced in all these factories in the Northern India? If so, did the Cabinet sub Committee which was appointed to go into these problems of core sectors looked into these short comings? Is the hon. Minister aware that since October energy production in this country has gone up by 20 per cent? Why should the fertilizer factories who are producing less because of shortage of power not increase their production to reach the rated capacity? Is the Minister aware that in many cases including the Ministry of Agriculture and also the State Governments, they are putting forward excess indents for fertilizers? In many States it has been found that fertilizer aged two years, three years and five years and more are lying in different godowns. Will the Government go into all these cases so that we do not go on spending scarce foreign exchange more and more in additional import of fertilizers?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The capacity of nitrogenous fertilizer is about 37 lakh tonnes in the country and not 15 lakh tonnes. We hope to produce 22.5 lakh tonnes this year. As far as the stocks with the State Governments are concerned, I would draw the attention of the Agriculture Ministry to what the hon. Member has said. We are trying to step

up production. The Cabinet Committee has gone into the difficulty of feed stock, railway movement plant by plant. They are keeping in constant touch with them and we are trying to improve the situation. I would like to quote that in July 1980 the production was 1,29,000 tonnes. In October, fortunately, we have produced 1,91,000 tonnes. So the production is gradually increasing.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The hon. Minister has said that the loss of production is of the value of Rs. 300 crores. In 1969-70 and in 1978-79 the weather conditions and rainfall level were identical. In 1969-70 the consumption of fertilizer was of the order of 2.1 million tonnes. The production of food grains was of the order of 99.5 million tonnes. In 1978-79 consumption of fertilizer was 5.1 million tonnes. The production went upto 130 million tonnes. In view of the experience does he realise that when you have lost production worth Rs. 300 crores, there is going to be fall in food production? In view of all that and in view of the constraints of oil, will you see to it that henceforward whatever fertilizer projects are set up, they are not oil based but they are actually coal and gas based?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I am thankful to the hon. Member. Now the position is on the basis of the experience that we have from the Talchar and Ramagundam coal based projects, if we succeed there, we shall try to have coal based projects. But now fortunately, we have struck gas in many parts of the country and the future plants would be gas based and not oil based, or fuel based.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the loss in the fertilizer sector on account of (a) Assam agitation and (b) on account of strikes?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The total loss in terms of money on account of Assam agitation is about Rs. 200 crores.

I have not been able to give the break-up on account of the strikes, etc. But the total loss on account of power cuts, strikes, shortage of feedstock, is 7 lakh tonnes.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मंत्री महोदय ने खाद के उत्पादन में कमी का कारण बिजली की कमी और हड़ताल वगैरह बताया है। लेकिन वह एक बात बताना भूल गये कि सरकार के पास बुद्धि की भी कमी है। अगर उसके पास बुद्धि की कमी न होती, तो उसने सिन्दरी के कोल-बेस्ड खाद कारखाने को स्फ्रेप के नाम पर बेच कर वहाँ पर आयल-बेस्ड कारखाना बनाने का फ़ैसला न किया होता एक तरफ़ देश में खाद की मांग बढ़ती जा रही है और दूसरी तरफ़ सरकार उतना उत्पादन नहीं कर पा रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि घनबाद में जो आयल-बेस्ड खाद कारखाना बनने वाला है, वह कब तक तैयार हो जायेगा और सरकार बरौनी के खाद कारखाने को कब तक ठीक से चलाने का विचार कर रही है, ताकि देश में खाद की कमी पूरी हो। बिहार में तो खाद के लिए हाहाकार मचा हुआ है। बिहार की ओर से साठ हजार टन खाद की मांग की गई है, जिसको सरकार नहीं दे रही है। इसकी व्यवस्था कैसे की जायेगी ?

श्री प्रकाश चन्द्र सेठी सरकार के पास बुद्धि की कमी नहीं है, बल्कि हम उमे एक्सपोर्ट कर रहे हैं और आप भी हमसे ले रहे हैं।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Export figures are official secrets!

श्री प्रकाश चन्द्र सेठी : जहाँ तक सिन्दरी कारखाने का सवाल है, उसका राशनलाइजेशन और माइनाइजेशन करना जरूरी था और वह कर दिया है। जो बेचा है, वह करीब-करीब स्क्रैप था, जो चार करोड़ और कुछ लाख रुपये में बेचा है। माननीय सदस्य ने भी पढ़ा होगा

कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने उस सेल को अपहोल्ड किया है। जहाँ तक बरौनी के कारखाने को चालू करने का प्रश्न है, माननीय सदस्य जानते हैं कि वह आसाम एजिटेशन की वजह से बंद है। लेकिन फिर भी जैसे ही इस प्रकार की सुविधा होगी कि वहाँ पर रा मैटीरियल पहुंच सके, हम उसको जल्दी प्रारंभ करने का प्रयत्न करेंगे।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Next question.

श्री राम नगोना मिश्र : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे भी एक सवाल पूछने दीजिए। यह मेरे साथ अन्याय हो रहा है।

Loss in Production of Crude Oil in Terms of Quantity and Value due to Assam Agitation

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*23. SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV:

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss in the production of crude oil in terms of quantity and value due to the closure of the refineries because of Assam agitation;

(b) the quantity and value in foreign exchange of the crude oil which Government had to import as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to accelerate oil exploration in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Estimated loss in crude production due to Assam agitation is as below:

	Quantity	Approx. Value of Product losses upto end of Sept. 80.
Oi & Natural/Ga. Commission up to 18th October, 1980	1.16 M.T.	} Rs.626 crores.
Oil India Limited up to 30th September, 1980.	1.55 M.T.	