

श्री बजर सिंह बी० सठवा : सोडा एश के जो निर्यात है उनकी कुछ मुश्किलें हैं। उन को दूर करने के लिए सरकार उनकी क्या सहायता कर रही है ?

श्री वीरेन्द्र पाटिल : उनकी क्या मुश्किलें हैं अगर माननीय सदस्य बताएं तो फिर मैं सोच सकता हूँ और कुछ जवाब दे सकता हूँ।

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR:

May I know from the hon. Minister whether, in view of the facts that there is no statutory control on the distribution of soda ash, much of the quantity of soda ash is sold in black market by the manufacturers, and if so what steps Government propose to take to check this and whether any complaints in this connection have been received by the Government?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: So far as distribution of soda ash is concerned, with regard to price and also with regard to distribution, there is no statutory control. So, they can sell it at any price they want. I admit that soda ash is in short supply. Therefore, we have taken the following steps in order to see that supply is ensured to the consumers: (1) The Ministry has constituted a Standing Committee consisting of producers and consumers and representatives of the various Government Departments to monitor production and distribution of soda ash the Standing Committee meets once in three to four months; the duty on imported soda ash was reduced; (2) Government have placed the item of soda ash under OGL, that is, Open General Licence, with effect from 14-1-1979, so that any actual user of soda ash can import directly; (3) an additional capacity of 9.82 lakhs tonnes has been licensed to several firms; and (4) Ministry has also prevailed upon all the manufacturers to supply about a thousand tonnes of soda ash per month to the National Consumers Cooperative Federation for distribution amongst small consumers through retail outlets spread all over the Country.

Import of Diesel

*336. **SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imported diesel oil from other countries; and

(b) if so, the quantity imported this year?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Our total imports of HSD during January—June, 1980 would be of the order of two million tonnes.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I want to know whether it is sufficient for our country or we have to import more quantities.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: We have been reviewing every month and whatever quantity is required, to that extent we are getting it from outside.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I want to know whether diesel has been supplied for tractors and diesel engines.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: So far as the distribution is concerned, we make bulk allocation to the State governments and the State governments, in turn, distribute it to the consumers. So far as internal distribution in a particular State is concerned, the Central Government do not come into the picture.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: In answer to part (a) of the question, the Minister has just said, 'Yes, Sir.' But, Sir, actually the Parliament should be told which are the countries from which diesel oil is being imported and which are the other countries with which you are negotiating for further imports.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: We are importing from other countries only crude oil and not the petroleum products. Whatever petroleum products we require we make spot purchases and we do not know from which countries the suppliers are bringing and supplying.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: May I know whether the government have issued any instructions or given any advice

to the State governments to give priority for supply of diesel to agriculturists.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: We have given clear instructions to all State Governments that while distributing the diesel top priority should be given to agriculture.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी साहू : मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि राज्य सरकारों को जो डीजल भेजा जाता है उसका क्या क्वांटिटीया है और कितना कोटा राज्य सरकार को भेजने के लिये निर्धारित किया जाता है ?

श्री वीरेन्द्र पाटिल : क्वांटिटीया यही है कि 1979 में उस वक्त डीजल का कोई शॉर्टेज नहीं था उस वक्त जितना कोटा हम स्टेट को देते थे उससे 10.5 परसेंट ज्यादा दे रहे हैं ।

श्री फूल चन्द बर्मा : मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उनकी जानकारी में यह है कि हम वर्ष जनवरी से लेकर मई तक कुछ प्रदेशों को जिसमें मध्य प्रदेश भी शामिल है जितना कोटा डीजल का मिलना चाहिये था वह समय पर नहीं मिला ? जो कुछ मिली थी वह भी कटौती कर के दिया गया और पिछले दो महीने का पूरा कोटा नहीं मिला है ? इसके सम्बन्ध में मंत्री महोदय क्या कहते हैं ?

श्री वीरेन्द्र पाटिल : कोटा न मिलने का कोई सवाल ही नहीं । हर महीने एलोकेशन की जाती है । अगर कोटा नहीं देंगे तो लोग खामोश नहीं रहेंगे । इस लिये कोटा देने या न देने का कोई सवाल ही नहीं है । हम स्टॉक के लिये एलोकेशन करते हैं उसके बाद कम ज्यादा के लिये एडीशनल एलोकेशन की जाती है ।

MR: SPEAKER: Shri Ahmed Patel—absent.

Shri S. M. Krishna.

Minister's views of Code of Conduct for Newspapers

***SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether while speaking at a meeting of the All-India Newspaper Editors Conference on the 7th June, 1980 he said that he was distressed very much that no code of conduct was being followed by newspapers to ensure fair and correct reporting; and

(b) if so, what measures he has devised to ensure implementation of the code of conduct and to advise the ANIEC to evolve a healthy system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Minister had urged the All India Newspapers editors' conference to enforce the code of ethics and see that the basic norms of fairness and objectivity were followed.

(b) In a democratic set-up with a free press such a code should appropriately be voluntary.

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Is the Minister aware that such assurances from the newspapers have been coming about enforcing a voluntary code of conduct? But is it not the experience of the Minister that in the name of the freedom of the Press some other precious freedom are slowly but certainly being eclipsed? Now, if the newspaper editors have faith in enforcing the code of conduct among themselves as when I say newspapers. I include news magazines also—now how does the Minister propose to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Sir, there are two ways by which this question can be taken care of. Firstly there is a Press Council Act and under Section 13 of the Act, there is a provision for evolving a code of conduct. We are taking up the matter with the Press Council that such a Code should be evolved by the Press Council which is a body of the press; secondly it is for the all India Newspapers' Editors Conference who have also set up a Committee to go into this question; thirdly this matter in terms of rights to privacy of the citizens is also before the Press Commission. So, I thought that all these organisations will evolve a code which should be voluntary. Government does not want to impose any-