

The point here is whether coal availability is there or not

इस रिपोर्ट को देखिये कोल अवैलेबिल है, केवल कहलगांव के लिये ही नहीं, बरानी, मूजफ्फरपुर के लिये भी है, लेकिन मंत्री जी हमेशा कतराने की कोशिश करते हैं। ता. 15 को सूरज भान जी के प्रश्न के उत्तर में आप ने क्या कहा है और ता. 11 को आप क्या कहते हैं। ता. 11 को कहते हैं कि हम ने 1 हजार मेगावाट का सैक्शन कर दिया है, लेकिन ता. 15 को कहते हैं।

subject to availability of coal we will think over it.

प्लानिंग कमीशन की एक चिट्ठी हमारे पास है, वे कहते हैं कि हम कम्पैरेटिव स्टडी करंगे और दिसम्बर, 1980 तक हमारी रिपोर्ट तैयार हो जायगी।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय:** मुझे हाउस का मूड एंसा लगता है कि इस में सदस्यों की काफी दिलचस्पी है। इस लिये मेरा सुभाव है कि आप आधे घण्टे की बहस के लिये मोशन दें, मैं उसको एडमिट करूंगा।

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** The Working Group has been set up by the Planning Commission to draw up the programme of power development for the next decade. Normally it is a Five Year Plan. What we are doing now is the planning for the next decade i.e. two Five Year Plans. In that the Prime Minister's intention of spending reserve of 10 per cent will be kept in view. That is one thing.

About Kahalgaon, I think I have been misunderstood. What I have said is this—about 1,000 mw there is no controversy. We have all accepted 1,000 mw super thermal power in Kahalgaon. What I wanted to say further is that if the coal deposit justifies, we will increase and make it 2,000 mw. That is all that I wanted to say. I have said clearly, categorically that about 1,000 mw there is no confusion. That we have agreed and we will do it.

### Cost Audit Studies of Synthetic Fibre Industry

\*635. **SHRI R. L. BHATIA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cost audit studies of the synthetic fibre industry viz., nylon, polyester, terricot, terene and other types of products manufactured and marketed by it at the various stages, e.g. (i) manufacture of various types of filament yarn, and (ii) finished product as fabricated by the textile mills including blended fabrics have been carried out;

(b) if so, the margin of profit discovered;

(c) if not, the reasons for not conducting such studies in view of the very high profit potential of this industry which is controlled by 5-6 Industrial Houses only; and

(d) whether he proposes ordering such studies now by some experts?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERANDRA PATIL):** (a) The Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices carried out cost studies in respect of Polyester Staple Fibre, Polyester Filament Yarn and Nylon Filament Yarn in 1979. Textile Commissioner has not conducted any cost study for synthetic or blended fabrics;

(b) The profitability of the synthetic fibre industry was on the higher side in the past. However, due to import of various items under O.G.L. and competition, prices have come down. The present prices are not significantly higher than their fair selling prices.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

**SHRI R. L. BHATIA:** My question was put to the Ministry of Industry. In this question, it is written Law and Justice Ministry. But actually it is the Petroleum Minister who has answered. I am glad there is somebody to

answer question. My question has been routed through three Ministries.

**MR. SPEAKER:** What an importance is attached to it!

**SHRI R. L. BHATIA:** This synthetic fibre industry is in the hands of 5 or 6 people. It is their monopolistic concern and they are charging fantastic prices from the people. So, there is a crisis in the country so far as the supply of synthetic fibre yarn is concerned. In Punjab, at least 500 factories are closed down for want of supply of this fibre. Even the Punjab Chief Minister has written to the Centre about it that a fair selling price should be fixed and the price should be regulated. May I know whether the Minister has made any cost check of this industry and the high profitability of these concerns? If he has the figures, let him come out with the figures for the last three years of the profitability of these 5 or 6 monopolistic concerns.

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:** It is not correct to say that the synthetic fibre industry is in the hands of only a few people. I have got figures. Nearly 9 firms are manufacturing nylon filament yarn. 9 firms are manufacturing polyester filament yarn and 7 are manufacturing polyester staple fibre. In my reply I have admitted that before 1978 they were making huge profits. That is why this fibre has been under the OGL. So, if they charge very high prices, anybody who wants to use this fibre can import it. The customs duty and excise duty are adjusted accordingly. If the local manufacturers are making huge profits we increase the excise duty and also decrease the customs duty. That is how we are adjusting it. After we took these steps, the prices have come down. The hon. member wanted to know about the prices. It is not a controlled commodity, but I am told that after February, 1980 the selling prices of these fibres have slumped down—Rs. 78 per kg in the case of polyester staple fibre, Rs. 140 per kg in the case of polyester filament yarn and Rs. 146 per kg in the case of nylon filament yarn. Import also is

permitted under OGL for anybody who wants to use it.

**SHRI R. L. BHATIA:** He has not fully answered my question. He says that 9 people are manufacturing one fibre, 9 are manufacturing another fibre and 7 are manufacturing the third fibre. Does he know that the same houses are making the first fibre and the second fibre also? So, ultimately it is 5 or 6 people who are manufacturing them. So, please don't mislead the House in this manner. You must give us the correct answer. In his statement, he has mentioned 'fair selling prices'. What is the fair selling price? Is he prepared to allocate this raw material to the small-scale industry at that fair selling price which he has mentioned?

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:** The hon. member said that whatever may be the information that I have given with regard to the firms which are manufacturing these fibres, they are only a few. I have got the list with me and I am prepared to read out the list if he wants. But so far as the supply of filament yarn and fibre is concerned, there is no question of supplying it at a controlled price or reasonable price because it is not a controlled commodity. I have made it quite clear that it has been brought under OGL and therefore, anybody who feels that indigenous fibre is costlier is at liberty to import any quantity at any time. There is no difficulty.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** The Minister has admitted that the prices were fantastically high upto 1978-79 and as a result of that, he has brought it under OGL. May I know whether by bringing it under OGL the price in the country will become less? Does he guarantee that? Or, will he take some other action, as Mr. Bhatia said, for a controlled price and proper distribution in the country? What attempts will he make in this regard?

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:** Before taking action, as I said just now, the price before 1978-79 was Rs. 250 per kg. It has come down to Rs. 140 per kg. I think, this price of Rs. 140 per

kg. is not an exorbitant price. If we feel that they are charging exorbitant price, we do not mind importing more quantities. As I have already said, it is open to the consumers to import any quantity.

**SHRI BHAGWANT JHA AZAD :** How can the small people import? Only the big persons can import.

**श्री शिव कुमार सिंह ठाकुर:** सिंथेटिक फाइबर बार्न के बने कपड़े की कास्ट जाफ प्रोडक्शन के सम्बन्ध में यह सवाल पूछा गया है। इस बार्न से बने कपड़े के जो मालिक हैं वे पचास से साठ प्रतिशत तक का प्रॉफिट कमाते हैं। क्या शासन की ऐसी कोई नीति है ताकि कम कीमत पर उपभोक्ता को टैरीलीन और टैरीकाट का कपड़ा मिल सके?

**श्री वीरेन्द्र पाटिल:** कपड़े का जहाँ तक सवाल है उसका मेरी मिनिस्ट्री से ताल्लुक नहीं है। मेरी मिनिस्ट्री का ताल्लुक सिर्फ फाइबर से है, फैब्रिक से नहीं है। इसलिए माननीय सदस्य अगर कामर्स मिनिस्ट्री से यह सवाल करें तो कामर्स मिनिस्टर इसका जवाब दे सकते हैं।

#### **Production Loss in Sindri Factory of Fertiliser Corporation of India**

\*636. **SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:**

1. **SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:**

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

(a) whether the Sindri factory of the Fertiliser Corporation of India shut off since January 1980 for want of fuel oil has suffered a huge production loss;

(b) if so, the actual extent of loss suffered so far; and

(c) what steps have been taken to resume production in the factory?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL):** (a) The Sindri Modernisation plant of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited has been closed since the evening of the 16th January, 1980 due to non-availability of feed stock, viz., fuel

oil/LSHS, following the closure of the Bongaigaon and Barauni refineries on account of the Assam situation.

(b) The production loss till the 15th July, 1980 is estimated at 50,850 tonnes of nitrogen.

(c) The plant will be re-started as soon as the feed stock becomes available.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** The answer to Question No. (b) may be given in rupees. I want to know from the hon. Minister: what are the alternative steps that have been taken to continue the fuel oil supplies to these factories?

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:** There is no possibility of taking any alternative step because all these plants depend upon the Bongaigaon and Barauni refineries' products. They are getting crude direct from Assam. Unless crude supply is resumed, it is not possible to supply fuel oil to these plants.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** How many fertiliser plants are lying idle on account of stoppage of fuel oil to these plants? What are the daily losses on account of the Assam agitation?

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:** On account of the Assam agitation, so far we have lost by way of crude oil more than Rs. 400 crores and by way of fertiliser, it is very difficult to say. If the hon. Member puts a separate question I will be able to supply the information.

The hon. Member has asked as to how many fertiliser factories have been affected as a result of the Assam agitation. According to my information—I do not have the detailed information—6 to 7 fertiliser factories have been affected because of the Assam agitation.

#### **Appointment of Advisory Committee on Distribution of Petroleum Products**

\*637. **SHRI K. MALLANNA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state: