

Minister the percentage of advertisements issued to small newspapers as compared to the big newspapers in the last one year ?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** Sir, I need a separate notice for it because the question of percentage of advertisements does not arise out of the present question. But we are increasing the advertisements being given to the small and medium newspapers but after all DAVP has to keep the criteria of circulation. For what do you advertise ? It cannot be done as charity. We have to keep the circulation criteria but our effort is to help the small newspapers.

**SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL :** Sir, from North Eastern region I am moving to Southern region. The Kerala Newspapers Association has represented to the Government and in fact, given a memorandum containing the following points :

1. Enhance the basic contract rate of small and medium newspapers introducing a new rationale—corresponding to the cost of Unit production—
2. Allot more quantum of DAVP advertisements to Small and Medium newspapers—
3. Make public undertakings and corporations issue their advertisements to small and medium newspapers obligatory—
4. Make low-interest working capital available to Small and Medium newspapers—

I would like to know what steps the Government is taking in respect of these points.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** Sir, as to the last point the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank have already agreed to treat the small scale newspapers at par with other small scale industries for financial assistance. As far as allocation of newsprint is concerned we have already established depots. Uptil now the greatest problem of the small newspapers was

that they were not getting newsprint in loose quantity. Now, we have made available that facility. Further, they had to go over to Bombay, Madras or to the big centres to take small quantities. So, we have started regional depots. This is another major step that we have taken to help the small scale newspapers. As far as advertisements are concerned, Sir, I have just now stated the criteria being followed. Even in that we will see that small scale newspapers get advertisements. I am keen that small scale newspapers get advertisements.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER :** Sir, small newspapers especially regional daily and weekly newspapers do not get sufficient advertisements from DAVP and other concerns. In view of this I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether his Ministry will supply newsprint at subsidised rate to the regional daily and weekly newspapers ?

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** Sir, there is no question of supplying newsprint at subsidised rates. Rate is the same for all. As far as language newspapers are concerned one of the biggest facility that we have given to them is that we have allowed them to raise their advertisement rates and bring them at par with English language newspapers. This is the biggest help that we have given to the regional language newspapers.

#### Closure of Heavy Water Plant at Nangal

\*24. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Fertilizers Limited has been

incurring heavy losses due to the closure of the Heavy Water Plant at Nangal ; and

(b) if so, details thereof stating the extent of loss suffered by the NFL till date both financially and in the Production of heavy water and its resultant effect on the Atomic Power Plants using the heavy water ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR):

(a) and (b). Production of Heavy Water at the Nangal Plant of National Fertilizers Limited has suffered on account of the power cuts imposed on the plant since the middle of September, 1981. The estimated loss of production during the period 16-9-1981 to 31-1-1982 is 4528 Kilograms of heavy water valued at about Rs. 72.45 lakhs.

Since the production of heavy water in the country is at present not adequate to meet the existing and envisaged nuclear power programme of the country the shortfall in the production of Heavy Water at Nangal will have a bearing on the nuclear power programme.

प्रो० अजित कुमार मेहता : अध्यक्ष जी, मैं समझ नहीं पाता हूँ—जब प्रश्न पूछा जाता है तो उसके सम्बन्ध में सारी सूचना सरकार क्यों नहीं देना चाहती है। आप देखें—मैंने प्रश्न पूछा—

If so details thereof stating the extent of loss suffered by NFL till date both financially and in the production of heavy water.

मैंने कुल आर्थिक हानि के बारे में पूछा था लेकिन जबाब में हेवी-वाटर के उत्पादन न होने के कारण जो हानि होगी केवल उसकी कीमत दी गई है। मेरी सूचना के अनुसार—

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप सूचना मत दीजिये, पहले पूछिये कि कितना नुकसान हुआ है।

प्रो० अजित कुमार मेहता : 20 जनवरी तक 6 करोड़ रुपये की हानि हो चुकी है। अगर पूरी हानि को जोड़ें अर्थात् फर्टीलाइजर के उत्पादन में जो कमी आई है उस को भी लें तो हानि करीब-करीब 11 करोड़ रुपये के लगभग होगी। आप हेवी वाटर के लिये चारों तरफ हाथ पसारें चलते हैं लेकिन हमारे यहां के उत्पादन में जो कमी हुई है उस पर ध्यान नहीं देना चाहते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ हमारे यहां जितने हेवी वाटर की जरूरत है उसमें कितना बाहर से इम्पोर्ट किया है या इम्पोर्ट करने का प्रयास किया है? इसके साथ यह भी बतलायें कि इम्पोर्ट पर अब तक कितना खर्च आया है तथा ...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : एक ही सवाल में सब पूछ रहे हैं, इस तरह से तो आपके सवाल का ठोसपन खत्म हो गया है। दूसरा सवाल बाद में पूछ लीजियेगा।

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I am sorry that the Hon. Member feels that I have not replied myself to the question that has been posed.

The question that was posed was whether they were incurring heavy losses due to the closure of the Heavy Water Plant. Because of the closure of the Heavy Water Plant, was there any loss which was suffered? That was the question which was put. And part (b) deals with the details of those losses. That is why I answered it by saying this.

MR. SPEAKER : Financial loss suffered by the Nangal Plant.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Loss suffered by the NFL till date,

both financially and in the production of heavy water. Please read my question.

MR. SPEAKER : It was a question of misinterpretation !

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : You have no doubt referred to the loss suffered by NFL. But you have referred to the non-production of heavy water even in question part (b). You are forgetting that part of it. That is why I had to give that answer. I am sure if the amplitude of the question is taken.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : You are taking advantage of technicalities.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : No. no. I am not taking that advantage. I am no more in the Law Ministry to take advantage of the technicalities.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has admitted that he was doing it in the Law Ministry.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR : Your Ministry is also a highly technical Ministry. You can very easily do it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Law Ministry is a highly technical Ministry on the question of interpretation. My Hon. friends, renowned lawyers sitting there, would bear with me. (*Interruptions*) .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह इन्होंने लायर्स वाली बात तो नहीं कर दी ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I am asking them to associate themselves with me. If I seek cooperation there is nothing wrong. I started by saying this. I have given the figures with reference to the

loss due to the closure. Now, my Hon. friend has asked the question regarding the heavy water import and the financial implications of that import. I am sorry I require a separate question for this because it is the Department of Atomic Energy which deals with this question and I have nothing to do with it. I would request the Hon. Member to put a separate question so that an answer could be rendered.

प्रो० अजित कुमार मेहता : अध्यक्ष जी, इन्होंने जवाब में कहा है कि

“the shortfall in the production of Heavy Water at Nangal will have a bearing on the nuclear power programme.”

निश्चित रूप से हमारे देश में एनर्जी के उत्पादन में कमी है और हेवी वाटर के उत्पादन में कमी होने के कारण एनर्जी के उत्पादन में कमी हो रही है। फिर काहे को ऐसा नहीं किया जाता है कि कम से कम हेवी वाटर के उत्पादन को जारी रखें जिस से हमारा एटोमिक पावर का प्रोग्राम सफर नहीं करे और एनर्जी का उत्पादन पूरा हो।

हमारे पास फिगर्स हैं। जो 170 टन फर्टीलाइजर का प्लांट है उसमें 30 किलोग्राम हेवी वाटर के उत्पादन के लिए 98 मेगावाट एनर्जी की आवश्यकता है जो कि अभी 40 मेगावाट सप्लाई हो रही है। अगर वहां 55 मेगावाट सप्लाई हो तो कम से कम 22 किलोग्राम हेवी वाटर का उत्पादन हो सकता है।

साथ ही साथ इसमें एक खतरा और निहित है। अगर हेवी वाटर का प्लांट बन्द हो जाता है तो उसको फिर से स्टार्ट करने में 10-12 दिन का समय लग जाता है जबकि हेवी प्लांट रि स्टार्ट किया जाता है

तो उसमें एक अस्थायी हानि और हो जाती है। हाइड्रोजन के विस्फोट के खतरे की संभावना हो जाती है। तो हम यह जानना चाहते हैं कि उसको रि स्टार्ट करने में जो खतरा है, उसकी संभावना को कम करने के कौन से स्टेप उठाएंगे। दूसरे अगर 18 मेगावाट पावर जनरेशन और सप्लाई कर दें तो कम से कम 22 किलोग्राम और हैवी वाटर का उत्पादन हो सकता है, उसके बारे में आप का क्या विचार है? उसकी कमी को आप कैसे पूरा करना चाहते हैं?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्रोफेसर साहब का सवाल तो हैवी वाटर के किलोग्राम के चक्कर में बह गया।

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Sir, I agree with the suggestion of the Hon. Member that there should be more production of heavy water. The Hon. Member was referring to the present position of the electric supply for the purpose of the heavy water. I may bring to the notice of the House one point that as on today the electricity supply varies between 45 megawatts and 60 megawatts and, of course, the production is very little. If the figures are to be given, I must say that it only discloses a little lesser figure.

बाज मर्तबा 26 तक गया है, बाज दफा 35 तक गया है। इस वक्त जो पोजिशन है वह 45 और 60 मेगावाट के बीच में मिलती है। जहां तक हैवी वाटर प्लांट का सवाल है।

So far as the capacity is concerned, this plant was built with a capacity of 14,110 kilograms per annum and the electricity power consumption was 164 megawatts. I do feel that because of the electricity cut, there is bound to be reduction in so

far as heavy water production is concerned.

MR SPEAKER : This has taken too long. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I do not think, I have to add anything more to what I have already said.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : The difference in the estimate of loss as given in the press and that given by the Government is very wide. The press says that the loss is about six crores including the loss in Urea and CAN Fertilizer, whereas the Government says that it is only 72.45 lakhs for heavy water alone. Whatever it be, the fact remains that the plant is being shut down frequently and this has damaged the machinery and the press says that the situation is very bad. I would, therefore, like to know by what time the normal power supply will be resumed and whether the Government propose to ensure that power supply to this plant is not dependent on other users. Further, has the damage to machinery actual taken place, and if so, the extent of it and what is being done to repair the same?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Whatever the press report might be, my answer was only with reference to the losses that we have been suffering for the closure of the Heavy Water Plant. That was the question, as a result of which I gave the answer. The question did not relate to the fertilizer plant and the losses suffered by it.

With reference to the question as to what steps have been taken to ensure the continuous supply of electricity, I can only go with a begging bowl to the Electricity Department for this purpose. I cannot help it. On my part, I have only been impressing upon the Electricity Board for the continuous supply of electricity.