

श्री रामनाथ सोनकर झास्त्री : जीसा कि लोगों ने कहा है, शान अब्दुल गफ्फार का सरहद्दी गांधी है... (व्यवधान)...

अध्यक्ष महोदय: मैंने आपसे कह दिया कि कम बैठिये, मैं आपसे बात करूँगा...

श्री रामनाथ सोनकर झास्त्री: हम चाहते हैं कि आप इसके बारे में बने शब्द कहें।

श्री रामनाथ सोनकर झास्त्री : इस विषय पर जरूर आपका कुछ कहना चाहिए...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: We want at least a word from you. We do not want to pick up any quarrel.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not picked up any quarrel. I have just listened because I feel with you.

(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय: ठीक है, मेरी हारहद्दी उनके साथ है। लेकिन मैंने आपको कहा कि मैं आपसे बात करूँगा...

(व्यवधान)

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: We want you to say a few words on behalf of the House.

अध्यक्ष महोदय: ठीक है आप बैठिए। मेरी भी हमहद्दी उनका साथ है।

** (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded without my permission.

Question No. 311. Dr. Subramaniam Swamy.

** (Interruptions)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

अपर असम में तेल क्षेत्रों में गैस का अव्यय

311. श्री डा. सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी:
श्री फूल चन्द्र वर्मा:

क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अपर असम में तेल क्षेत्रों में बड़ी मात्रा में गैस उपयोग न होने के कारण बंकाव जा रही है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इससे कितना नुकसान हो रहा है;

(ग) क्या इस गैस की वेश के अन्य भागों में बड़ी मात्रा में गैस है और यदि हाँ, तो इस गैस के अव्यय के क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने इस क्षति को रोकने के लिए पहले कोई योजना नहीं बनाई थी और यदि कोई योजना बनाई गई थी, तो उसका प्रभाव क्या है;

(ङ) क्या विभिन्न संस्थानों को इस गैस के प्रयोग के लिये कहा गया है; और

(च) यदि हाँ, तो तत्सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है और उनके द्वारा इसका प्रयोग जब तक न कर पाने के क्या कारण हैं?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The local consumers and industries have not been able to utilize the gas according to their schedules and in the quantities indicated in their schedules. It is because of this that, unavoidably, some surplus associated gas has had to be flared.

(b) During 1981-82, 769 million standard cubic metres of associated natural gas was flared. The notional value of this works out to about Rs. 7.69 crores. But if this flaring was to be entirely avoided in the circumstances, then the production of crude oil would have had to be greatly reduced and this would have led to a very much larger loss to the country.

(c) Even though there may be demand for natural gas in other parts of the country, transportation of the quantities involved (which are relatively small) over large distances is not commercially viable, specially for a limited number of

years before the consuming units in Assam to whom gas has been committed already, are in a position to utilise the requisite quantity of gas.

(d) No, Sir. The Government has formulated detailed schemes. The optimum utilization of gas has been gone into at different times by various committees and working groups and it is as a result of these that schemes for the manufacture of fertilizers, petrochemicals, LPG, generation of power, supply to tea gardens etc. were undertaken.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The various organisations such as the Assam State Electricity Board, Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd., etc. have been asked from time to time to lift the quantities of gas that have been committed to them. However, delays in the execution and commissioning of these projects and in their steady operation have resulted in short lifting.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I feel that the statement laid on the Table of the House is, as usual, completely evasive and it does not highlight the grave situation created by the loss of national revenue due to the planning of this associated gas. Having gone to Assam recently, I must say that the people there are unhappy about this state of affairs.

I would like to ask the Government whether it is a fact that this flaring has become necessary because Namrup Fertiliser Third Unit which was to be commissioned, has still to be commissioned and the delay in the Central Government's construction activity in setting up this Third Unit has made it necessary to flare up this gas. This is causing loss of crores of rupees to the nation every year. Assam is the sufferer because of this loss.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I do not think that the reply that I have given is in any way evasive. I have given the facts and figures. It is no doubt true that Rs. 7.96 crores of associated gas is being flared up there.

Part of my friend's observation is correct because it has not been used by Namrup Unit No. 3.

In fact, we have been requesting the Assam State Electricity Board and the Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation also, to use it. We have also schemes with reference to the downstream plants and they are already taking their shape. It is only a temporary affair but, nonetheless an affair which undoubtedly gives a little bit of anxiety.

(Interruptions)

So far as Oran, Gujarat is concerned, there is no flaring up of gas there. The previous question that was asked was with reference to Oran.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: The Hon. Minister has mentioned the Assam State Electricity Board besides fertiliser unit. I would like to know whether it is correct—I learnt about it in Assam—that the Assam State Electricity Board is prepared to use more of this gas provided the price which the Central Government is charging from the State Government is lowered and I would also like to know whether the Central Government would consider lowering of the price at which they are selling this gas to the Assam State Electricity Board in view of the fact that the Central Government have to flare this gas.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: Even to-day I learnt that the gas that is supplied to the Assam State Electricity Board is at the rate of Rs. 99.92 per one thousand cubic metres which is the lowest paid by various consumers. Gas is actually sold at a very high rate at other places. But we are supplying it to the Assam State Electricity Board at the lowest rate.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: You have to give it free.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: They are not lifting it. We have gone to the extent of even allowing them to have the gas turbines also. If they lift it, we are prepared to consider it, instead of merely flaring it up.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state how much gas is allocated to Namrup-3, how much of the gas is allocable for generation of power and out of the total gas used for the purposes of Namrup and power generation will there still be some surplus gas left and, if so, what would be the amount of surplus gas?

The Hon. Minister also mentioned the rate. I would like to know whether the rate being charged from the Assam State Electricity Board is equivalent to the coal consumption rate in terms of calorific value of energy supplied by a unit of coal and a unit of gas.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: So far as Namrup is concerned, Phase-I of the fertiliser plant in Namrup had a total requirement of 0.223 million cubic metres per day and this is being supplied to them. Even to Phase No. 2, it is supplied in the same fashion; if my hon. friend is interested in the figure, it would be 0.846 million cubic metres per day. So far as Phase No. 3 is concerned, it requires a firm commitment of availability of gas to the extent of 1.17 million cubic metres per day and it has already been made. This is the position so far as supply of gas commitments and the gas that is already supplied to Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Namrup are concerned.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: What about Phase No. 3?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I have said that—1.17 million cubic metres per day.

The other part of the question that my hon. friend has asked me is about coal and the price with reference to that. I will be able to lay this on the Table of the House shortly because I do not have the information with reference to that.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: What will remain after the supply is made to the Electricity Board? How much more gas will still be surplus and be flared up? I wanted to know that.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: On the question of surplus, if the gas that we

have already allocated is lifted, then there would not be the question of flaring up at all. About the little bit that we have to flare up, we have already conceived of petro-chemical complex which we have already started with ground work there.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Still you will have some flaring up. You cannot stop it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I follow. My hon. friend is aware—because he had headed this Ministry—that some gas will have necessarily to be flared up for the purpose of taking out the crude; otherwise, you cannot go on; then the crude production will go down.

New Telephone Factories

*313. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up three new telephone factories;

(b) if so, the sites chosen for the purpose, the nature of equipment proposed to be produced and the schedule drawn for the purpose; and

(c) how far these will go in solving the demand for telephones in the country and to ease the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a and b) The approved plans for the expansion of manufacturing facilities for telephone exchange switching equipment consists of the following:

- (i) Setting up of two new factories each with a capacity of 5 lakh lines per annum for manufacture of Digital Electronic (local) Switching Equipment; and