

The selling prices (exclusive of sales tax) of Motor Spirit and Kerosine are uniform throughout Assam, Manipur, Tripura and the Lushai Hills. The prices of other products differ from Station to Station, depending on the transportation charges.

2. All the above prices are exclusive of sales tax.

3. The reasons for the increase have already been stated in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 166 (answered on 16-2-1960).

12 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

REPORTED DEFECT IN THE CHILLING PLANT, MURADNAGAR

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Shri Goray, Shri Jadhav and others on the damage caused to the Muradnagar chilling plant of the Delhi Milk Supply Scheme on account of the sinking of the floor below the plant. It is said that this has resulted in throwing the plant out of gear as a result of which the chilling process remains incomplete and full check on the quantity of milk cannot be kept. Shri Braj Raj Singh also has given notice of a similar adjournment motion. There are three adjournment motions relating to this subject. What is the position? Has the floor sunk under the heavy plant?

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I will hear the Minister.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Sir, the Delhi Milk Supply Scheme was giving a good deal of relief to the citizens of Delhi through the supply of milk. Though it has not been well established, we are hearing such news. The news says that the construction also is bad and that it is now giving way. We are approaching the summer season and by the approach of the summer season we might not get any cool milk at all. So, this is a very important matter. The

plant is worth Rs. 3 crores. In the Milk Supply Scheme, we have invested Rs. 3 crores. If adequate care is not taken, the citizens of Delhi may not be able to get good milk.

Shri Jadhav (Malegaon): This defect was brought to the notice of the public by the press just now. It seems that the defect is a long-standing one. There was a question to this effect. I had complained about the quality of the milk that is supplied to us; it is the worst of its kind. We have complained about it not once, but twice, thrice or four times. Shri Goray has also complained about it. But no reply was received and no particular care is taken about this matter. I had asked a question. You asked me to taste the milk. We are tasting it every day and it is the worst quality of milk that is supplied. I think particular care should be taken about it. It is a great project. Rs. 3 crores have been spent over it and we are being supplied with this bad quality of milk.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): In the press news it has been said clearly that it has affected the floor, and if the floor sinks further, then it may completely affect the chilling plant. Another news which has come in is much more alarming. The cool milk has to be pumped directly to the tankers which transport the milk to the dairy. This means, that the chilling process is not completed and there cannot be full check on the quality of the milk that is despatched to the dairy. So, I want to know whether this is correct and, if so, whether this third process which is not being carried out because of this breakdown is going to affect the quality of milk.

Lastly, the hon. Prime Minister wanted some cases of corruption! This is the latest one. A building constructed three months before has started sinking. I also place this aspect of the matter for information.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): The Delhi Milk Supply Scheme is being

[Shri M. V. Krishnappa.]
 worked since the last four months. We started it on the last Deepavali day. The main plant is situated in Patel Nagar on which we have invested more than a crore of rupees. For this main plant, we collect milk from 30 centres, spread out in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi State and Punjab. When we collect milk, we try to chill it there. It is not necessary in all cases to chill the milk before it is brought to the pasteurisation plant; but we take a little extra precaution and to be more scientific, since the Government is doing this, first, when the milk is collected in the rural parts, we chill it there and keep it in cool condition. The plant at Muradnagar is one such plant. It is not the main plant. The main plant is in Delhi. There is nothing in the plant and it is safe and nothing is going to happen to it. But at one of the 30 centres, which is situated in Muradnagar and on which we have invested about Rs. 3 lakhs, both for machinery and the building, there is some structural defect noticed since the last 15 days. The man working there noticed that under one of the tanks there in which milk was stored, the ground was sinking, and it was after two or three days that he noticed it. The process was continuously going on; it was sinking. Then the matter was reported. I went there the day before yesterday night. Even without the tank, the milk is being brought there and it is chilled and sent to the dairy. The work of the tank is only just to store the milk till the van comes to pick it up. So, to say that the process is incomplete is wrong. It is chilled there. Till the van comes, the milk is stored in a tank and that tank is now out of order. So, even without storing it, the van collects the milk and it is brought to the main dairy. The milk is pasteurised in Delhi and not in Muradnagar. Before pasteurisation, we used to chill the milk. It is done as a precautionary measure. That plant is now out of order. Even there, it is only the tank. Even without the tank, the milk is being chilled and brought to the dairy in Delhi. That is the

position. I am sure that very soon the tank will be set right.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: That is a defect.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The Central P.W.D. are at it and the milk will be supplied as usual.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): This morning, we saw the reports in the press to the effect that the chilling operation at the Muradnagar chilling plant of the Delhi Milk Supply Scheme has been affected due to the sinking of the floor. My hon. friend, my colleague, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, has explained the position so far as the quality of the milk and the supply of the milk are concerned.

I would like to add a few words so far as the work of the C.P.W.D. in regard to this matter is concerned. This matter has been enquired into by a team of experts on the spot, consisting of the Additional Chief Engineer, the Superintending Engineer and the Chief Technical Examiner. While the construction was undertaken by the Central P.W.D. the actual installation of the equipment and the plant was done through a private firm. It is found that some subsidence of the floor under the storage tank has taken place, and these experts have been asked to submit a detailed report immediately. However, the subsidence of the floor is *prima facie* due to the heavy intensity of the load imposed by the equipment on the floor, and it is a matter for examination whether the foundations were properly designed keeping in view the likely intensity of the load or whether there was some defect in construction. The Chief Technical Examiner who, it may be said, is independent of the CPWD, has been instructed to carry out a detailed investigation and submit a report very early. The settlement of the floor, as my hon. colleague has already pointed out, has not in anyway affected either the processing of chilling or the quality of the milk supplied to the Delhi dairy at Patel Nagar.

I would like to add that as soon as the report is received from the Chief Technical Examiner, I will be placing a further statement on the Table of the House.

Shri Radha Raman (Chandni Chowk): We have been finding one after the other report after report that structures—whether they are put up by the private firms or the Central PWD—for certain purposes are not serving the purposes for which they are meant. One after the other, we are receiving such reports. I want to know if the Government is taking some action in order to avoid recurrence of such incidents and avoid such losses.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): The hon. Minister of Works, Housing and Supply, when he made a statement, had not referred to one item, that is, who carried out the soil test before the building was put up. That is a very important thing. Even for a small building to be constructed, it is very important that the soil test is carried out. In his long statement, there is no reference at all to this aspect. In the detailed enquiry which is going to be made, let him take this aspect also into consideration.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Who was the private contractor?

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta—East) rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Before I call upon the hon. Minister to reply, and make a statement, all hon. Members who want to make any suggestions should rise in their seats. Many hon. Members did so. Shri Sadhan Gupta did not then rise. I am sorry I cannot allow him to speak now.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: My point arises out of the replies given.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. Then it will become endless.

Two points have been raised. The first is, how far the sinking of the floor is likely to affect the quality of the milk. The hon. Deputy Minister has said that it is only a storage tank independent of the chilling process.

That is only a preliminary step; later it is pasteurised here and this machine is all right. From that point of view, there is no danger to the quality of the milk.

Regarding the other point, two persons are interested in that. The CPWD has undertaken the construction and it has entrusted it to a contractor. At this stage, we are not able to say who is responsible for it. A committee has been appointed and all the suggestions that have been made regarding the soil testing and so on will be considered there by that committee. So far as the seriousness is concerned, of course Rs. 3 lakhs is a big sum. It is not Rs. 3 crores. The main plant seems to be here. The damage is to one of the 32 plants strewn over various places. Whatever it may be, not a pie shall be wasted. I am sure, the hon. Minister will see that a proper investigation is made and the statement will be placed on the Table of the House, when it comes before him. I do not give my consent to this adjournment motion.

LABOUR TROUBLE IN BHILAI STEEL PLANT

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of another adjournment motion on the following subject:

"The situation arising out of the recourse to firing, teargas and cane-charges on workers of the Bhilai Steel Plant, where there has been labour trouble recently over the workers' demand for better safety measures lack of which, it is alleged, has resulted in a number of accidents and where on this account production work has been hampered."

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): Reports of a disquieting nature have appeared in the Press . . .

Mr. Speaker: In which paper?

Shri Vajpayee: In all the papers. It has been reported that due to some labour trouble, production work has been partially affected. The local Press has reported that some damage has been caused to the plant itself.