LOK SABHA

Tuesday, April 3, 1973/Chaitra 13, 1895 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

IMR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Assessment regarding working of Sindri Fertilizer Plant

*583 SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

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

- (a) whether any assessment has been made by Government regarding the working of the Sindri Unit of Fertilizer Corporation during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the nature of irregularities found in its working; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the working of this Unit?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) to (c). The working of the Sindri unit has been reviewed from time to time and appropriate remedial measures have been taken or are being taken to improve its performance. Detailed information in this regard is given in the statement laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c). The performance of the Sindri Unit in the last three years in

terms of production and financial results is given below:—

The attainable capacity of the unit was assessed in 1964 as 99,000 tonnes of Nitrogen per annum. In May, 1972, a Technical Committee appointed by the Board of the Corporation assessed that the attainable capacity during the next five years cannot be expected to be more than 75—80 thousand tonnes of Nitrogen per year.

The production during the last three years was as under:-

-		
1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
84.50	74.00	65.0
		(likely)

The unit made a cumulative profit of about Rs. 16 crores upto the end of 1967-68. The unit has been incurring losses during the last three years as under:—

 AND AND PROPERTY OF THE PERSON OF	summers that have a sistered deviational		
	(Rs.	in	lakhs)
1969-70		25	5.76
1970-71		157	7,95
1971-72		346	3.97

The reasons for the losses have been identified. These are rise in prices of raw materials, loss of production due to rapid deterioration of plant and machinery and the poor condition of coke-oven batteries all of which are to be expected in an aging plant; rise in freight rates additional electricity duty, increased maintenance cost due to the age of the plants and higher consumption of raw materials like sypsum and coal due to their poor quality.

Several measures, both short-term and long-term, have been or are being taken to improve the economics of working of this plant through increased production. Apart from repairs and renovations to different sections of

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this old plant, a scheme is already under implementation for manufacture of triple superphosphate at This would eliminate dependence on natural gypsum, the quality and supplies of which are presenting difficulty and also ensure regular supply of byproduct gypsum for production of amsulphate. The expenditure monium incurred on this scheme would be about Rs. 35 crores in addition to expenditure on renovation referred to above.

Since these measures cannot by themselves be expected to improve the economics of working of this plant beyond a certain point, a large scale expansion and modernisation is also scheme contemplated The would increase the capacity for production of nitrogen from about 90,000 tonnes per annum to about 2.55,000 tonnes per annum would be based on heavy petroleum fractions as the feedstock in lieu of Coke/Coke oven gas being presently used as feedstock at Sindri. This scheme is estimated to cost about Rs. 96 crores.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Sir the hon. Minister has given in his statement so many reasons for the losses occurring in the plant at Sindri-I would like to point out that besides these reasons, according to my information the plant has suffered because of the power politics played by The Managing Director Mr. Chakravarty. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the General Manager Shri R. K. Ghosh, appealed to Hon. Minister for his confirmation as the Managing Director, Mr. A. R. Chakravarty, is not confirming him in spite of the fact that he was approved as the General Manager by the Bureau of Public Enterprises and he has offered to quit the FCI rather than to face humiliation at the hands of Mr. Chakravarty. I would like to know whether this is a fact ... (Interruptions). Whather the former G. M., Shri Gosh, was beaten by the hired goondas of the Managing Director?

As I have already gubmitted, besides the reason given by the hon. Minister, some power politics was being played by the Managing Director, Shri Chakravarty.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the gentleman is not here. You cannot bring in his name. You can mention his designation.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: My question is—I am not mentioning his name—whether the former G.M. Shri Khanna was beaten by the hired goondas of the Managing Director? When these people were suspended by the Personnel Manager, the Managing Director reinstated them while Mr. Khanna was asked to proceed on leave.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a part of the assessment?

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: This is mainly due to the power politics being played by the Managing Director.

SHRI D K. BOROOAH: That is not our assessment?

MR SPEAKER. His question was very categorical. He referred to the General Manager and your reply should also be categorical.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Therefore. I said that that was no tmy assessment.

श्री विशेष सिंह राष: स्पीकर माहब, मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से दर्यापत करना चाहता हूं कि पिछले सालों में इंस्टान्ड कैपेसिटी की कितना परमेंट इस फैक्ट्री में काम होना रहा?

क्या यह सब है कि पिछले चन्द मालां में यके बाद दीगरे कई जनरल मैनेजर तबदील हुए, भीर क्या यह सब है कि जो इस फ़ैक्ट्री के धन्दर नुकसान होता रहा बह प्लास्ट के पुराने होने की बजह में नहीं बल्कि मैनेजीरियल खराबी की वजह में होता था?

क्या यह सब है कि पिछले दिनों राज्य सजा में कुछ मेम्बर्स बाक पर्तनवामेंट की दरफ़ से सैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर के खिलाफ़ यह इस्जामात लगाये बामे कि इस फ़ॉटलाडबर प्लान्ट में मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर करण्यान कैला रहा है, अच्छे खच्छे खार्यमियों को निकाल रहा है सीर कुछ पीलिडीकियन्स को वहां से क्या किलता है ? और अवर यह इस्कान लगायं गये तो उस के मुतिल्लक सरकार में क्या कदम उठाये और क्या सरकार इस बारे में सी० बी० झाई० की इनक्वायरी कराने के लिए तैयार हैं?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The percentage of the installed capacity is rather on the low side. I shall give you the exact figures. It is 65 per cent of the installed capacity which is rather low for a fertiliser factory; it per cent. should be at least 80 In his second question he asked about certain charges made by the hon. Members of the Rajya Sabha against the Managing Director. If you will remember this was explained the other day also; all these are being looked into by the department. He has been asked for his explanation and I am told that he has just submitted his explanation and that is being processed and as soon as we come to some conclusion about it we shall do the needful

श्री चन्द्र शंलानी: चेयरमैन श्रीर मैनेजिंग चायरेक्टर श्री कें आर अनवतीं ने सीं विश्व शाई की इनक्वायरी में बचने के लिए क्या आपको इम्लीफा दे दिया है श्रीर अगर दे दिया है तो क्या उसको स्वीकार कर लिया गया है? क्या यह भी मत्य है जो चाजिज श्री चत्रवर्ती के 3,97 लगाए गए है उनके रिकार्ड वह जला रहे हैं. उनको नप्ट कर रहे हैं श्रीर यदि हा तो क्या ऐसे व्यक्ति पर देणद्रोह का मुकदमा नही चलना चाहिए?

भी देक्कात्स बद्धा हम एफ० सी० धाई० का रिग्रागेंनाटजेशन करना चाहते हैं। इसके नारं में मैने राज्य सभा में एलान भी किया था। उसी के मुनाबिक उन्होंने भपना इस्तीफा भेजा है लेकिन हम ने सभी तक उसको बहुश नहीं किया है।

भी मुहम्मद क्षतीलुर्ग्हनात : जो स्टेटमेन्ट किया गया है इसकी दो लाइनें

में भाषकी इजाजन से पढना चाहता है। इस में लिखा है कि प्रोडक्शन टारगेट 99.000 टन था। नेकिन 1970-71 में वह 84 50 दन दिखाया गया है. 1971-72 में बह घट कर 74 टन रह गया धीर १०७७--७३ में ६६ टन रह गया। एस्टीमेटेड लीम का भी विवरण इस मे दिया हमा है। 1969-70 में 25.76 नाख था. 1970~71 में 157.95 नाख भौर 1971-72 में वह 346.97 लाख हो गया। ग्रगर कल पूर्जे खराब थे ग्रीर टारगेट प्रोडकणन नहीं दे सकते है तो 1964 के बाद क्या कभी जनरल मैनेजर ने मिनिस्टी को रिपोर्ट भेजी कि पूर्जे या मशीनरीज खराब हो गए है. कल कारखाने खराब हो गए हैं भीर ये टारगेट प्रोडक्शन नही दे रहे हैं भीर इनके सधार के लिए कुछ किया जाना चाहिए ? 1964 में ले कर 1973 तक क्या कभी भी ऐसी कोई रिक्टिजिशन उनकी तरफ से प्रार्ट भीर प्रगर बाई तो मिनिस्टी ने उस पर क्या कार्यवाई की ?

श्री देवकान्त बरुझा इसके बारे में दो तीन बार जाच हो चुकी है। एक बुनियाद पर कुछ मिद्धान्त ने निया गया है। 35 करोड़ रूपया इसकी इस्प्रूबमेंट के लिए श्रीर पूरा नया बनाने के लिए रखा गया है भीर उसकी एक स्कीम भी बन गई है। धभी पुरानी सशीनरी है। जिएसम जो राजस्थान से श्राता था उसकी क्वालिटी में भी खराबी हुई है। इसलिए पूरा एरिवर्नन करने के लिए एक मिद्धान्त तय किया गया है भीर काम शुरू कर दिया गया है।

श्री राम नारायण कार्मा: तीन वर्षों का जो विवरण दिया गया है इन तीन वर्षों मे जनरन मैंनेजर कौन ये भीर क्या इस बीच स्थायी जनरल मैंनेजर की व्यवस्था की गई थी जब से श्रस्थायी जनरल मैंनेजर को वहां से हटाया गया ? मंती जी ने बताया है कि इसकी एक्स-पैंगन के लिए स्कीम बन रही है हैवी पैट्रोलियम के वेसिस पर। ग्रव तक कोयले का वेसिस था। इसके लिए बरौनी में काम हो रहा है। इससे उठता हुग्रा प्रश्न एक ग्रीर था। 1972 में एक टीम ने एयेसमेंट किया था। उमने कहा था कि 80 परसेंट कैंपेसेटी का प्रोडक्शन होना चाहिए ग्रीर प्रोडक्शन हुग्रा है 65 परसेंट। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इन मब बीमारियों का इलाज क्या है?

भी देवकांत बहमा: यह सही है कि मिनी तक वहां म्रमोनियम सल्फेट कोक भोवन गैस से बनता था। इसमे तबदीली करके हैंबी पट्टोलियम भी फरनेम म्रायल से बनाने का सिद्धान्त तय किया गया है भीर फरनेस बरीनी से म्राने वाला है। माडर्नाइज्ड प्लाट जो ला रहे है उससे हम भ्रभी 90,000 टन से बढ़ा कर 2,55,000 टन करना चाहते हैं मीर चाहते हैं कि वह वायएवल युनिट बने।

जो पहला सवाल सदस्य महोदय ने किया था कि इन तीन मालों मे जनरल मैनेजर स्थायी थे या श्रस्थायी थे, मुझे उन के तजुर्बे से मालूम होता है कि स्थायी थे।

श्री राम नारायण शर्माः जी नही, नहीं थे। कोई जनरल मैनेजर नही है। डिग्टी मैजनरल नेजर एक्टिंग जनरल मैनेजर है।

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: According to the statement, Government propose to spend about Rs. 131 crores on the Sindri Fertilizer Plant. Does this include machinery, renovation and replacement? In how many years this amount will be spent and when will you get the renovated plant?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The implementation of the entire scheme is likely to take four years.

*SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HAL. DER: Sir, the hon Minister in his statement has given figures of production and losses which show that there has been a continuous fall in production and loss, increased since 1969-70 which is because of bad management. I would therefore like to know from the hon. Minister, what steps he proposes to take to overhaul the Board of Management to overcome this difficulty? Secondly whether he proposes to include the workers' representatives in the Board of Management so that the losses may be contained and the factory may start making profits.

*SHRI D. K BOROOAH: Mr. Speaker Sir, in reply to the hon. Member I would like to say that it cannot be accepted that the losses were only because of bad management. So far as workers' participation is concerned it is a desirable thing and I will keep the suggestion in view.

Shortage of Cooking Gas

*584. SHRI VEKARIA: SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:

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

- (a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of cooking gas in India and particularly in Gujarat State:
- (b) if so, the reasons for the short-age; and
- (c) the action taken by Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) and (b). Even though the production of Liquified Petroleum Gas (commonly known as cooking gas or LPG) has been in-

^{*}English Translation of Bengali.