

was started on 28th January, that is, within a month. The State Government has also started the work. About 60 per cent of the work is completed. It is expected that it will be completed by June, 1974.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE :** May I know in what manner the effective coordination is being maintained with the B & C Department of the State Government which is carrying out the work of the approach-road subsequently? Is there any difficulty in starting the approach-road work on the city end of the over-bridge?

**SHRI L. N. MISHRA :** There is a coordination committee consisting of the representatives of the Maharashtra Government and the Railways. They meet every quarterly and discuss the problems. So far, there has been no difficulty as regards the approach-road work.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Now, I am going to the second round and calling the absent Members again. I find all these Members are absent. We then take up the Short Notice Question.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

#### **Purchase of Mustard Seeds by Vanaspati Manufacturers of Gujarat to Create Scarcity**

S.N.Q. 5. **SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vanaspati manufacturers of Gujarat are purchasing mustard seeds in large quantities from all available markets for manufacture of refined mustard oil and thereby creating scarcity in mustard oil dealing; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
(PROF. SHER SINGH) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY**  
The hon. Minister's reply seems to be more tactical than objective. The vanaspati manufacturers are using the rapeseed oil, the bigger seed oil, as an ingredient for manufacturing vanaspati oil. May I know whether it is a fact that, over and above that, on 1st March 1973, the vanaspati manufacturers of Gujarat had been allowed to use 15 per cent mustard oil for the manufacture of vanaspati, and if so, what are the reasons for allowing these vanaspathi manufacturers of Gujarat to use both rapeseed oil and also mustard oil or refined mustard oil for the manufacture of vanaspati completely ignoring the claims of mustard oil mills, groundnut oil mills, the small scale oil mills of West Bengal? The Government of India's decision has thrown 25,000 people out of the job.

**PROF. SHER SINGH :** The information of the hon. Member that we have allowed 15 per cent use of mustard oil in Gujarat is wrong. From 1st March, we have just permitted the vanaspati manufacturers to use mustard oil. No percentage has been fixed. They can use it. I can give the figures. After 1st March, when this permission was given, in Gujarat, not even one tonne of mustard oil has been used. We get returns from all vanaspati factories. The reports received from 48 out of 60 factories in production show that, during the first week of March, only 311 tonnes of mustard oil were purchased by the vanaspati factories in the north zone, and 97 tonnes in the eastern zone. There were no purchases in any other zone. That means, in western zone, under which Gujarat falls, there has been no purchase of any mustard oil for use in vanaspati. During the second week of March, purchase of only 223 tonnes by four factories in the northern zone has so far been reported. This is all the mustard oil that has been used.

**SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :**  
The hon. Minister has not answered my first question. What are the reasons for

allowing the vanaspati manufacturers to use rapeseed oil, the bigger seed oil, the soyabean oil, along with mustard oil?

PROF. SHER SINGH : In vanaspati, we had been using groundnut oil to the extent of about 68 to 70 per cent. With the shortfall in the production of groundnut crop in the last season by about 16 to 17 lakh tonnes, there was demand from Gujarat and Maharashtra—because they use groundnut oil directly as mustard oil is used by the eastern States—that the consumption of groundnut oil in a vanaspati should be decreased. We took a decision in December. We decreased the quantity in the usage of groundnut oil in the manufacture of vanaspati; we brought it down to 50 per cent. Not more than 50 per cent on the average—it varies from zone to zone—could be used for manufacture of vanaspati. Therefore, we had to allow use of other oil. We have fixed a limit that 15 per cent of the cotton seed oil which is not used by human beings for direct consumption could be utilised for manufacturing vanaspati. We have put minimum 15 per cent there. Then, we are importing some oil to stabilise the prices.

But that is only upto about 1 lakh tonnes because we do not have more of foreign exchange. Then some other oils also like Niger oil are also being used upto 10%. In the case of mustard oil, the mustard crop this year is very good. It is about 6 lakhs tonnes more than it was last year. Therefore, we thought that this is a cheaper oil. Further, we did not want to increase the prices of vanaspati. So, we had only three alternatives, (1) either to increase the price of vanaspati or (2) to import more oil to neutralise and stabilise the prices or (3) to allow the use of cheaper oil. Now, because of increased production this year of about 6 lakhs tonnes more of mustard seeds which means that two lakhs tonnes of more mustard oil would be available, we thought it should be allowed to be used. We did not put any percentage

—5 or 10 or 15 per cent. They may use a small amount. As I said, only about 300 tonnes have been used in the first week and in the second week also 300 tonnes and a little more. It is very little.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Even from the explanation of the hon. Minister it is clear.....

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your question.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : While framing the question, just one word.

Even from the explanation of the Minister it is very clear that the prices of vanaspati have not come down, rather they have gone up. In spite of this fact, as I stated, 25,000 persons have been displaced out of job in West Bengal and I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the supply of rapeseed to the small scale industries in West Bengal has also been curtailed so that they can give more rapeseed to the vanaspati manufacturers, and if so, what are the reasons and whether the quantum of the supplies of imported rapeseed made to the West Bengal oil mills has been increased; if not, what are the reasons?

PROF. SHER SINGH : 25,000 and odd small *ghanis* which are running there will have six lakhs tonnes more of mustard seeds than it was available last year.....  
....(Interruption).

MR. SPEAKER : No arguments, please.

PROF. SHER SINGH : More mustard seeds are being available for being crushed by the mills. Then, there is the other thing. Even the imported rapeseeds that we are getting from Canada—we have been making that available to West Bengal.....

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : What percentage?

**PROF. SHER SINGH :** And that is being crushed by these small *ghanis*. We are not stopping them. That also continues. We will also continue giving rapeseeds for being crushed by these *ghanis*. We have not stopped it.

**SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :** What is the quantity that he is giving ? From 6000 tonnes they have reduced it to 2000 tonnes. Is it a fact or not ? What are the reasons for reducing it ?

**PROF. SHER SINGH :** Last year, because the production of mustard seeds was less, so we were making more rapeseeds available. We supplied them 4000 tonnes every month of the rapeseeds imported from Canada. Now, because this year the mustard crop is very good, we are thinking of utilising a part of the rapeseeds that we are getting from Canada for vanaspati to stabilise the prices and because we do not have imported oil and we will need more foreign exchange if we want to import more oil.....(Interruptions).

**MR. SPEAKER :** Please do not make it a debate.

**DR. RANEN SEN:** (a) Is it known to the Minister that the Bengal oil mill-owners are making representations for more than a year and demanding from the Government of India more mustard seeds and rapeseeds ?

(b) Is it also known to the Government that in view of the shortage of mustard seeds and rapeseeds in West Bengal, the prices of all oils, particularly, of mustard oil have gone up from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 per kg. That is the current price prevailing in Calcutta. If the Minister is aware of these two facts, may I know whether the Government propose to take to bring down the prices of mustard oil by supplying more mustard seeds and more rapeseeds, or, is there any other alternative thought by the Government ?

**PROF. SHER SINGH :** As I said earlier mustard seed is available in large quantities this year especially because of increased

production. Therefore, more mustard seed is available now. The production is 20 to 21 lakh tonnes as against 14 to 15 lakh tonnes of last year. There is no control. So, mustard seed is freely available in the market. It can be bought by mill-owners and they can crush. As I said the rapeseed is imported from Canada. This is made available to these mills and they are crushing them.

**DR. RANEN SEN :** What is the price of mustard oil in the whole of the eastern region, not only in West Bengal ?

**PROF. SHER SINGH :** I am giving the figures. On 26th of February the notification was issued. The price at that time was Rs. 5750 per tonne. On the 15th and 16th in this month it has come to Rs. 5350. That is, it has come down by Rs. 400 a ton-

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** It has gone up in the whole of the eastern region. It has not come down. The price has gone up.

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** Either the Minister is misleading the House or the Members are misleading. We must have a correct reply.

**DR. RANEN SEN :** Every year it has gone up.

**SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI:** Is it a fact that Bengal Oilmills Association has made a representation to the Minister for more rapeseed ? Have they also pointed out about scarcity of mustard seed in West Bengal market ? The Minister says that there is lot of production. But, may I know the actual facts ? May I know what is the availability and what is the rate of production with reference to the Bengal market ?

**PROF. SHER SINGH :** I have received the representation in which they say : "When the vanaspati industry has already been allotted the above quantity of imported seeds, the Central Government's decision to put their nose in the mustard oil sector is really surprising. As a result of this decision the prices of mustard seeds all over India registered an increase of about 15 to 20 per cent during the last two weeks.."

This is the letter which they have sent to Members of Parliament and to us also. This is an exaggerated version. The prices have not gone up by 15 to 20 percent. I have given the figures. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We are interested in the retail prices for the consumers.

PROF. SHER SINGH: During the last two weeks the prices have come down by Rs. 400 per ton. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are quoting in tons. They are quoting the retail prices. Instead of going into the controversy it is much better you tell them that you will look into it and if you discover they are right you should come out with a statement later on rather than getting into controversy and taking so much time of the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: He has not replied to my question.

PROF. SHER SINGH: The question raised by the hon. Member was whether we have received any representation from the mill owners. Yes, we have received and their demand is they should get more seeds for crushing and we are making rapeseeds available to them. We are also keen to see that nobody gets unemployed. Mustard seeds are available and rape seeds will also be given to them.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: May I know whether it is a fact or not that the allotment of Canadian rapeseed to the West Bengal mills has been cut down or reduced? Secondly, may I also know whether it is not a fact that the moment the notification of 26th February was issued and it was known that a portion of the mustard oil would be diverted to the vanaspati manufacturers, the operators in the market have seen to it that mustard seed and mustard oil go underground so that prices are put up, and whether it is not a fact that as a result of this, during the last two or three weeks, the retail price which the consumer has actually to pay in Bengal, in Calcutta and the eastern region has shot up by Rs. 3 or 4 per k.g. as a result of this policy?

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PROF. SHER SINGH: As for giving rapeseed to the millowners for being crushed, even if a part of it is made available to the vanaspati factories, we are thinking of giving that rapeseed for being crushed by these millowners so that they may not go out of employment....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: My specific question is whether the allotment was reduced or not.

PROF. SHER SINGH: We do not make allotment to the mills.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Does he not make allotment of the imported seeds?

PROF. SHER SINGH: We make allotments to the State and not to the mills.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Has he reduced it or not, as far as West Bengal is concerned?

PROF. SHER SINGH: Yes, on 28th February, we had given them 2000 tonnes of rapeseed....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Instead of how much?

PROF. SHER SINGH: Instead of 4000 tonnes. We are examining the whole situation, and if the prices of mustard oil go up we can also think of....

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The prices have gone up.

PROF. SHER SINGH: Now, the new crop has started arriving, and the prices have started going down....

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The prices are not going down.

PROF. SHER SINGH: I have got these figures from the *Financial Express*. We are examining the whole question. If the prices of mustard oil go up, we can reconsider the whole thing, and we can give more rapeseed and we can then forgo the use of mustard oil. We are examining the whole situation, and if the prices still go up, then we can use cheaper oil. We are examining the whole situation with a view to seeing whether the situation warrants giving more rapeseed or withdrawing permission to use mustard oil. We are examining it.

श्री शशि भूषण : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ—भावों के सम्बन्ध में घाप के पास जो स्टैटिस्टिक्स हैं, कृषि मंत्रालय हमेशा गलत आंकड़े देता रहा है। क्या आप इस की दोबारा जांच करायेंगे। यह निश्चित है कि घर बैठ कर, एग्रर कन्डीशन्ड कमरों में बैठ कर आप के अधिकारी बाजार भाव लिख देते हैं और मिनिस्टर साहब को यहाँ परेशान होना पड़ता है। मैं चाहूँगा कि मिनिस्टर साहब इन भावों की जांच करवायें और अधिकारियों ने अगर आप को गलत रिपोर्ट दी है तो आप उनको सजा दें।

PROF. SHER SINGH : These figures have been given from the *Financial Express*. But I shall again check up the whole thing.

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पांडे : श्री शशि भूषण जी ने अभी कहा है कि कृषि मंत्रालय हमेशा झूठा स्टेटमेन्ट देता रहा है . . . (ब्यवधान) . . . मैं चाहूँगा कि इस को कार्यवाही से निकाल दें।

श्री शशि भूषण : स्टैटिस्टिक्स के लिए कहा है, स्टेटमेन्ट के लिए नहीं कहा है।

MR. SPEAKER : There can be no point of order during question-hour.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: May I submit to the hon. Minister that he may make a tour of the market in order to know the retail price, either tomorrow or the day after ?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I accuse the hon. Minister who has deliberately misled this House by quoting false figures and a false statement and a false report on the price of oil, and as a result, he has no right to sit here but he should resign. Just two days before, Shri Kashikanta Moitra, the hon. Minister of West Bengal had said in a press conference that in West Bengal, 133 oil mills were going to close down and that the Government were going to close down the supply of mustard oil from the ration shop and as a result the whole rationing system for mustard

oil was going to break down. I want to know whether that is a fact. I also want to know whether it is a fact that he has accused the Central Government that without giving the West Bengal Government or the Minister there any information, suddenly, out of the 4000 metric tonnes of rapeseed that was being supplied to West Bengal for being supplied to 133 mills, 15 per cent was diverted for vanaspati, although 6000 tonnes of rapeseed imported from Canada is every month given to the vanaspati manufacturers as well? May I know whether as a result of that, the prices have completely shot up and the rationing system is going to break down? May I also know whether it has been brought to the notice of the Railway Minister that as a result of the rise in the freight charge on mustered seed, the price of oil and oil-cake is going to increase abnormally and the producer of oil in West Bengal is going to suffer because of non-competitive prices? How is the hon. Minister talking of a bumper crop? Even when there was a very good crop, the production was only 14000 to 15000 metric tonnes, and this year it will not be more than 16,000 to 17,000 tonnes. So, on what basis does the hon. Minister say that the crop will be good, when the oilseeds have not come into the market yet? On what basis does he say that in view of the prospects of a bumper crop, he has diverted rapeseed for vanaspati production?

PROF. SHER SINGH : I could understand only parts of his question. He has made an insinuation that I had made a false statement, I resent it very much. Whatever I said is correct, and I stand by it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: I did not say that he had made a false statement, but I say that his statement is incorrect. (Interruptions).

PROF. SHER SINGH : Now, let hon. Members please listen to me . . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Let hon. Members please listen to the hon. Minister.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA :** One tin of mustard oil is being sold at Rs. 15 to Rs. 16....(*Interruptions*)

**PROF. SHER SINGH :** You can very well imagine how true the figures given by my hon. friend is. He said in Delhi mustard oil is selling at Rs. 15 per kilo (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA :** Per a 2-kilo tin. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** Please listen to him.

**PROF. SHER SINGH :** He said Rs. 15 a kilo. Please check the record.

**श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पांडे :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, यहां हमारे कुछ भाई इतने गलत स्टेटमेंट दे रहे हैं, यह बड़े शर्म की बात है.. (*अवधान*)

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** पार्लियामेंट में आप ने एक तरीका बना लिया है कि सब लोग एक साथ बोलने लगते हैं। यह कोई ठीक बात नहीं है.. (*अवधान*) . . .

**श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी :** मंत्री महोदय कहां की बात कर रहे हैं ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** आप लोगों को दूसरों की बात न सुनने की आदत पड़ गई है।

**श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री :** मैं आज सबेरे ने प्राया हूं। (*अवधान*)

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Let somebody go to Super Market and find out what a 2-kilo tin costs. It is Rs. 15.

**PROF. SHER SINGH :** The figures that I gave are from the *Financial Express*. These are day-to-day figures on the basis of.... (*Interruptions*) I am giving the wholesale price (*Interruptions*) I have already said from what source I got the figures. I will check up again and see whether these are correct.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You better check up and tell the House. Call attention. Shri Shashi Bhushan.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** He has not answered my questions. I put so many questions. He should answer at least some.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** On a point of order. Just now the hon. Minister said that some of the prices quoted here are quoted wrongly. A controversy is created. We have not quoted wrongly. We have said that even in the Super Market and in the North Avenue Market the price of Kanodia mustard oil per 2 kilos is Rs. 15.50. It has gone up by Rs. 2. You appoint a Parliamentary Committee. I am prepared to purchase a tin and place it before you or on the Table of the House. I will bring the cash memo also.

**MR. SPEAKER :** No, no.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** I asked three very relevant question, first about the statement made by the West Bengal Food minister, second that the whole rationing system in West Bengal is going to break down, third that the rise in the freight charge and will cause a rise in the price of mustard oil. These are the three questions which I have asked.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He will look into it.

**PROF. SHER SINGH :** Shall I reply ?

**SHRI M. RAM GOPAL RADDY :** Sir, .....

**PROF. SHER SINGH :** Are you allowing him ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** I am not allowing him.

**PROF. SHER SINGH :** I am answering it. Please listen. I have received a telex message from the Food Minister of West Bengal.

**AN HON. MEMBER :** When ?

**PROF. SHER SINGH :** Last week. I can give the date. I received a telex message from the Food Minister, without quoting any rice—(*Interruptions*) He did not quote any price as such. He said prices are going sky-high. (*Interruptions*) Please listen to me. Then he said that the millers may go out of employment. These are the two things he pointed out. I gave a reply to the telex

message the next day, or two days after that and I pointed out that after 1st March, the prices have now started going down. (Interruptions) Please listen to me. Why don't you listen to me? In the reply, I have also mentioned that we are examining the whole question. But we have not taken a final decision. We have just given permission for the use of mustard oil, and we are examining what effect it will have on the prices. We are examining the whole thing. As for the millowners' association, I have written to the Minister that part of the rapeseed for crushing, as it was being made available to them before, will be made available to them, and we are keen that they should not get unemployed. We have sent reply to them to day received from the Minister.

#### WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

**पेट्रोलियम के विपणन के लिये भारतीय तेल निगम के नाम से एक अलग संस्था बनाने की आवश्यकता**

\* 381. श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने पेट्रोलियम के विपणन के लिये भारतीय तेल निगम के नाम से एक अलग संस्था बनाई है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो पेट्रोलियम के विपणन को तेल तथा प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग के नियंत्रण में न रखने के क्या कारण हैं जैसा कि तेल तथा प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग अधिनियम, 1959, (1959 के अधिनियम 43) में उल्लेख किया गया है ?

**पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री (श्री डी०के० बरुआ) :** (क) और (ख). इण्डियन आयल कम्पनी जो इण्डियन आयल कारपोरेशन के गठन के लिए, इण्डियन रिफाइनरीज लि० के साथ बाद में मिला दी गई थी, 30-6-59 को स्थापित हुई थी और तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस

आयोग अधिनियम, 1959, 18 सितम्बर, 1959 को लागू हुआ था। अतः सरकार ने शुरू-शुरू में निर्णय लिया था कि तेल उत्पादकों के विपणन (मार्केटिंग) एक अलग संगठन द्वारा किया जाना चाहिए और तेल एवं प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग को प्रारम्भ में कच्चे तेल तथा प्राकृतिक गैस की खोज तथा उत्पादन के लिए विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिए।

**पैदा आयुतापल्ले (दक्षिण-मध्य रेलवे) में एक रेलवे पुल को उड़ाने का प्रयत्न किया जाना**

\* 382. श्री चन्द्र लाल चन्द्राकर : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पृथक ग्राम की मांग करने वाले आन्दोलनकर्ताओं ने पैदा आयुतापल्ले (दक्षिण-मध्य रेलवे) में एक रेलवे पुल को उड़ाने का प्रयत्न किया था ;

(ख) क्या वहां कुछ माल गाड़ियों पर भी पथराव किया गया था जिससे रेल कर्मचारियों को चोटें आईं ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

**रेल मंत्रालय में उपसजी (श्री गृहम्बर शफी कुरेशी) :** (क) जी हां, रिपोर्ट मिली है कि 25-2-73 को अलग आन्ध्र राज्य की मांग करने वाले कुछ व्यक्तियों ने गन्धर्वम और पैद-अयुतपल्लि के बीच पुल नं० 18 के नीचे भारी विस्फोटक रख दिये थे और उसे उड़ाने का प्रयत्न किया था। विस्फोट से पुल के दो स्लीपर पूरी तरह उड़ गये और चिनाई के काम को कुछ नुकसान पहुंचा।

(ख) 29-1-73 को पैद-अयुतपल्लि और तेलगोलु के बीच बिना चौकीदार वाले एक समपार फाटक पर आन्दोलनकारियों ने माल गाड़ी नं० डब्ल्यू ई एस-31 पर पथराव किया लेकिन कोई घायल नहीं हुआ।