

in Nepal. Certain proposals have been worked out and these are presently under the consideration of the two Governments.

**SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :** In view of the fact that we are interested in the development of Nepal in every direction, particularly in petro-chemicals, I want to know whether there has been any aspect of the problem where Nepal had sought something from us which we have not been able to accept, and if so, what is it ?

**SHRI D. K. BOROOAH :** In this connection, the Nepal Government had taken a decision that all imports of oil products would be canalised through the State-owned Nepali Oil Corporation. The Government of Nepal has also decided that internal distribution and marketing of oil products in Nepal should be undertaken by the Nepal Oil Corporation.

The two decisions have been taken by the Nepal Government within their sovereign right. We cannot, in any way, object to these decisions.

**SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :** It is a very welcome sign that the Nepal Government wants to handle this matter.

I want to know whether these foreign oil companies are also having any say in the matter of distribution and other things ; whether the Government of India is also considering that only our Indian Oil Corporation deals with Nepal Government and not by the foreign oil companies.

**SHRI D. K. BOROOAH :** No. The Nepal Government have not made any distinction between I.O.C. and Esso, Burma-Shell and other foreign oil companies. In fact our total contribution is about 50,000 tonnes.

**SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :** The question is whether we have taken a decision that foreign oil companies should not deal with Nepal Government but that our Indian Oil Corporation alone should deal with them.

**MR. SPEAKER.** He has already replied to this.

**SHRI D.K. BOROOAH :** That is for the Nepal Government to decide. They will take over the distribution of oil from all these three foreign oil companies. It is a matter about which we cannot do anything.

**SHRI N.K.H. SALVE :** We are ourselves facing an acute shortage of crude. I want to know whether the Government are out to get crude at whatever price we can from the foreign country. In view of the fact that it is going to be a drain on our foreign exchange, whether we are going to export these products to Nepal. If so, whether we are likely to get payment in foreign exchange ?

**SHRI D. K. BOROOAH :** Sir, Nepal buys 50,000 tonnes of petroleum products. That represents only 0.23% of our internal consumption. So, it is not a drain on our consumption in this country.

**SHRI N.K.P. SALVE :** I meant drain on our foreign exchange.

**SHRI D. K. BOROOAH :** But, Sir, it has been agreed that if Nepal wants to buy additional oil from us they may pay in the convertible currency. Whatever it is, the question of paying in foreign exchange does not arise here.

**MR. SPEAKER.** Dr. Laxminarain Pandeya.

**विभिन्न रसायनों के मूल्यों में वृद्धि**

**श्रीर उनका अभाव**

\* 389. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या विभिन्न रसायनों, जैसे कास्टिक सोडा, साइट्रिक एसिड, टार्ट्रिक एसिड, पैराफीन, ग्लिसरीन, तथा मैथाल के मूल्यों में भारी वृद्धि हुई है और ये प्रायः बाजार में उपलब्ध नहीं हैं ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) दिसम्बर, 1972 से अब तक इनके मूल्यों में कितने प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने सीधा सा उत्तर दे दिया। 21 दिन की नोटिस देने के बाद भी जानकारी इकट्ठी नहीं हो सकी जब कि कास्टिक सोडा बाजार में उपलब्ध नहीं हो रहा है और ग्लिसरीन और पैराफिन भी अस्पतालों तक में उपलब्ध नहीं हैं और इसके बाद भी कहा जाता है कि इन्फार्मेशन कलेक्ट की जायगी और सदन की मेज पर रख दी जायगी। मैं जानना चाहूंगा क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बान का आश्वासन देंगे कि दवाखानों में ग्लिसरीन और पैराफिन उपलब्ध हो सके और बाजार में कास्टिक सोडा उपलब्ध हो सके इस के लिए वह जल्दी से जल्दी कोई कदम उठावेंगे ?

**श्री देव कान्त बरुआ :** माननीय सदस्य का जो कहना है उस का मंशा है कि रिटेल में कास्टिक सोडा का दाम कुछ बढ़ा है और यह तो पेपर में भी आया है 'एकोनामिक टाइम्स' में, इसलिए हम ने प्रोड्यूसर से पूछा है कि कैसे इस का दाम बढ़ा है ? इस की हम जांच कर रहे हैं।

**डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय :** मैं ने ग्लिसरीन और पैराफिन के बारे में भी पूछा था कि इन का भी शार्टेज है और गवर्नमेंट डिस्पेंसरीज तक में ये उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, इसके बारे में क्या वह आश्वासन देंगे ताकि यह वहां उपलब्ध हो सके ?

**श्री देव कान्त बरुआ :** पैराफिन बहुत बड़ी कम्पनी नहीं बनाती है। हम ने एक कम्पनी मविता कम्पनी लिमिटेड से पूछा है और उन्होंने लिखा है :

They have not effected any price increase since December '72

और ग्लिसरीन के बारे में :

Glycerine is produced as a by-product of splitting up of fats and oils.

उसकी भी हम जांच कर रहे हैं।

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** May I now whether the Government have no information about the ruling price of the commodities mentioned in the question, whether the prices have gone up or not or about their scarcity ?

**SHRI D. K. BOROOAH :** Both.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** In that case, are we to understand that the Government does not keep in touch with the ruling prices ?

**SHRI D. K. BOROOAH :** We keep in touch.

**श्री भटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** सवाल का नोटिस 21 दिन पहले दिया गया था। सरकार जानकारी इकट्ठी कर रही है इसका क्या मतलब है ?

**SHRI D. K. BOROOAH :** About these particular items, we are collecting the information.

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** सरकार को आये बहुत थोड़े दिन हुए।

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** But the ministry is always functioning, though the minister is new. It is a Ministry for Notices ?

**SHRI RAJA KULKARANI :** Is it not a fact that paraffin is mainly distributed by Burmah-Shell and Burmah-Shell and its dealers have colluded against the consumers ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** That is a very good information you are giving.

**SHRI S. R. DAMANI :** What are the reasons for the rising prices? Is it due to insufficient production? What steps are Government going to take to increase the production to meet the requirements and also to reduce the price ?

**SHRI D. K. BOROOAH :** That is exactly what we are looking into.