

MR. SPEAKER: Did you have patience to listen to what he said?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, patience is exhausted. Thousands of people are starving.

MR. SPEAKER: My patience is also getting exhausted.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Your kindness is always on our side.

MR. SPEAKER: He says it is not there in the list of recommendations. About Your suggestion, he can invite the attention of the State Government. What else is there?

SHRI B. V. NAIK: Since the hon. Minister has made a welcome suggestion that about 160 districts are going to be covered in the whole country with reference to the query of Dr. Ranen Sen, may I know, before he explains this programme, whether the whole of SFDA and the Marginal Farmers Association today is headed by the Divisional Commissioner and all the officials at the District level? Has the Hon. Minister noticed this or has it been brought to his notice that in all these SFDA and Marginal Farmers Association there is not a single marginal farmer? In these bodies they have taken a policy decision but not a single small farmer is represented there. Under the circumstances, it is a very relevant and practical problem which we face at the district level. Would he care to nominate or get elected some of these small and marginal farmers who can take interest in these Associations and thus serve their own people? We find only bureaucrats being represented at the Taluk Board and District levels. Sir, this is a very valid point and we have attended these meetings and found that there is not a single small and marginal farmer represented in the Association.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the question hour, not a debating hour.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Sir, these are administrative agencies established under the Registration of

Societies Act at the district level, and therefore, these agencies which are implementing agencies and associated agencies are advisory boards on which small and marginal farmers can be got included. I shall draw the attention of the State Government to this particular aspect.

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will consider the question of land distribution to landless labourers and whether he will consider the long-term T. R. work in conformity with the fifth Five Year Plan?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The Policy is to distribute surplus land to landless labour, the preference being given to the labour belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. That policy is being implemented by the West Bengal Government.

Production of Dalda and other vegetable oils

*189 SHRI S. M. BANERJEE Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state.

(a) what further steps have been taken to step up production of Dalda and other vegetable oils in the country;

(b) whether Hindustan Lever Factory at Ghaziabad has been asked to produce more; and

(c) if so, whether this has been done by them; and if not, steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c) This factory is currently functioning at almost full capacity.

STATEMENT

The fall in production of vanaspati during 1974 had been attributed to inadequate availability of raw oils at

economic prices. With the decontrol of vanaspati from 5th January, 1975 it was expected that this difficulty would no longer be there. In fact, the production has already increased substantially from 29,926 tonnes in December, 1974 to 38,604 tonnes in January, 1975. To augment availability of raw oils to the industry, imports are being continued, mainly on commercial basis.

As regards other vegetable oils, efforts are being made through implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes, to raise the productivity per hectare by adoption of Package approach on an area basis in respect of each important crop in selected states where production technology has been well developed and potentialities for rapid growth are good, increasing the area under irrigated oilseeds, and development of non-traditional oilseeds like soybean and sunflower.

SHRI S M BANERJEE. At a time when there was shortage of Dalda, Hindustan Lever who rather enjoys the monopoly in the manufacture of Dalda stopped production of vanaspati at Trichy factory, since 15th October, 1974. They laid off all the workers. I would like to know what has happened to the repeated representations made by me and my other colleagues requesting the Government to take over the unit for the manufacture of Dalda.

The argument advanced by the Hindustan Lever is that in the south people do not prefer Dalda and, as such, it is a losing concern. I would like to know whether a final decision has been taken. I was told by the Minister of Industry that action is being taken to take over this unit.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: As regards the Trichy plant of Hindustan Lever, because they found it increasingly difficult to run it, they decided to dispose it of M/s Peruman Agency Ltd. have purchased it.

The Tamil Nadu Government is attending to the problem. There are certain technical matters which are being settled. As soon as the management is transferred, the factory is expected to go in production and, naturally, the workers' problem will also thereafter be solved.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: On 15th November, 1974, in reply to a question, Shri Shah Nawaz Khan who was then the Minister of State in the concerned Ministry said:

"It is true that Hindustan Lever are not producing anywhere near the installed capacity...."

My question related to the factory at Ghazibat and my charge was that they were reverting their production to Margarine which is more beneficial than Dalda as far as the price is concerned. He further said:

...and that they are going out of the vanaspati business. If and when they do that and their conduct deserves taking over, that is, the Government, will not hesitate to do so."

I would like to know whether it is a fact that they have adopted the same policy of go-slow produce less, conceal more and, if so, whether any inquiry has been made into the working of the Ghazibat factory and whether the Government have made up its mind finally and firmly to take over this unit.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SINDE: As I have mentioned in my main reply, the factory is almost operating at its full capacity. It is true that last year a number of factories, including Hindustan Lever, were not in a position to operate because of a number of constraints and difficulties. That is why there was the shortage of vanaspati in the country. The raw material prices and the oil prices had short up

very much. Since at the other end, there was control also, many of the factories found it uneconomical to run the units. So, the utilisation of full capacity was not only with respect to this unit but to a number of units. Therefore, I do not think there is any need for the Government to intervene now when the production has come up as a result of the policy decision taken by the Government.

DR. RANEN SEN: Sir, in the statement, it is stated that after the price increase the production has gone up. I want to know whether it is a fact that after decontrol, the prices of Dalda have started going up and (b) whether it is a fact that they are also consuming large amounts of mustard seeds and rape-seed oil to produce the Dalda. So much so that there may be a crisis in mustard oil all over the country. If it is a fact then I want to know:

(a) What steps the Government have taken to restrict the price increase or decrease the price and to prevent the Hindustan Levers and other companies which are producing Dalda not to use mustard oil or rape-seed oil?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SINDE: The hon. Member would be happy to know that recently the position in regard to availability of vanaspati has improved all over the country; as a result of Government decision, the production has started coming up. All over the country the availability is no problem. The prices have not increased in bigger packs but in the case of smaller ones, there is some marginal increase in prices. But it is known to the hon. Member and to the hon. House that the prices of edible oil in the country are on the decline in the last 6 or 8 weeks and this should not present any cause for anxiety now. As far as use of mustard oil is concerned, this year, we expect the bumper crop of mustard. Normally we are having production of 18, 16 or 14 lakh tonnes but this year we expect a production of 24 lakh tonnes

of mustard oil. Even if vanaspati factories partly use it, I do not think, that should affect the general market availability. There are already constraints of how much groundnut etc. should be used, how much cottonseed oil should be used. There are fiscal incentives offered for use of some minor oils.

गोबर गैस की सफलता

191. श्री भगताराम मनहर: क्या कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि .

(क) गोबर गैस की सफलता ग्राम उपयोगिता के चरण में अब तक किये गये परीक्षणों के क्या परिणाम निकले हैं,

(ख) क्या विश्व बैंक ग्रथवा किमी ग्रन्थ अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय एजेंसी द्वारा इस परियोजना में रुचि लिये जाने ग्रथवा इस के लिए या इस की तकनीक में सुधार करने के लिए सहायता प्रदान किये जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है, यदि हा, तो तत्सम्बन्धी तथ्य क्या है, और

(ग) ग्राम आदमी को गोबर गैस उपलब्ध कराने के लिये बनाये गये कार्यक्रम की रूप रेखा क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Tests and trials conducted by various agencies namely Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Khadi and village Industries Commission, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Planning Research and Action Institute, Lucknow have established the success and utility of gobar gas plants. Cattle dung or in fact, any organic waste when processed through