

SHRI B. V. NAIK: This is based on the fact that I have written a letter to the hon Minister, Shri C. Subramaniam, on the 19th April 1974, in which the entire proceedings of the meeting held on the 12th February 1974 at Bangalore has been communicated to him. In that it has been very specifically stated that since the Karnataka Government have not enough funds for the project, if the Government of India was willing to undertake it as a public sector project, the State Government would have no objection to it—item No. 16, of the proceedings of the meeting of the Informal Consultative Committee, which met at Bangalore on the 12th February 1974.

MR SPEAKER: Why are you bringing all this here?

SHRI B. V. NAIK: It has been my endeavour since July 1971 to bring to the notice of this august House and the Karnataka Government the problem of 10,000 people with 2,500 acres of land. They are being displaced from that land. Every time I raise this point the Minister makes a non-committal reply with the result that parliamentary procedures becomes sterile. I have quoted the entire proceedings in my letter. If the hon. Minister has not received it, when he receives it, will he give due consideration to it and pursue the matter with the Karnataka Government, particularly the Minister of Industries?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The hon. Member has written to the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals....

SHRI B. V. NAIK: This is written to Mr Subramaniam himself....

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: ...and, I am told, the reply has been sent to him that there is no proposal to take over any of the Caustic Soda Plant.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: May I lay the letter on the Table of the House?

MR. SPEAKER: You better hand it over to him in his office, not here.

Distribution of Industrial Gases in West Bengal

*819. **SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the system of distribution of industrial gases in West Bengal;

(b) whether any complaint about the distribution system have been received; and

(c) if so, the facts of the complaint and the action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C SUBRAMANIAM): (a). There is no control over the distribution of industrial gases. Gases are supplied to consumers in West Bengal through the normal trade channels by manufacturers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: In reply to part (b) of the Question, the reply is, "No, Sir." The question was whether any complaint about the distribution system has been received. May I know from the hon Minister as to which sector is engaged in the production of industrial gases, public sector or private sector, and it is because that some production is in the private sector and no complaint was made and that is why the answer is, "No, Sir."?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The production is in the private sector. The question was specific whether any complaint about the distribution system has been received. I said, "No, Sir" because we have not received any complaint.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: Because the production is in the private sector and there is no scope of making a complaint to you, that is why the answer is, "No".

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not know whether there is any complaint at all.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: My second question is: What are the needs of industrial gases in West Bengal? What is the quantum of industrial gases produced in West Bengal? Whether there is any shortfall in the demand and supply of these industrial gases and whether there is any use of these gases in steel plants.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Out of the existing capacity of nearly 80 million cubic metres, nearly 29 million cubic metres capacity is established in West Bengal. Two new letters of intent have also been issued. But even in addition to this, if more gas is required for industries located in West Bengal, certainly, we shall look into it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Just now, the hon. Minister has admitted that there is a need for more gas. He said that two new letters of intent have been issued because there is more demand of gas. I would like to know, out of 29 million cubic metres capacity in West Bengal, how much is located within one Company, that is, the Indian Oxygen which is a British firm and whether it controls the bulk of the production while there is also a shortage and, if so, whether the Government has ever considered the necessity of stepping in to see that at least distribution is controlled in such a way that the requirements are fulfilled because some of the biggest customers are the public sector units, including defence factories and so on.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I have already stated that so far we have not received any complaint with regard to distribution. Certainly, if there is

any complaint, we shall look into it. Amongst the producers, the Indian Oxygen is the main producer....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Out of 29 million cubic metres capacity, how much is produced by them?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: In the meantime can I put my question so that he can reply both?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Indian Oxygen at Assamset has capacity to produce 57 million cubic metres Indian Oxygen at Shammagar produces 510,000 cubic metres and Indian Oxygen at Calcutta produces 7.2 million cubic metres. Therefore, about 14 million cubic metres half of it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I asked whether the Government has considered any scheme to control the distribution specially to the essential sectors.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I have already answered this question. So far there has been no complaint with regard to the distribution system. If there is something wrong, we shall certainly look into it.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: In view of the hon. Minister's statement that licences for a production of something like 29 million cubic metres have been given or that much capacity is going to be installed, but, as a matter of fact, I would like to know from him whether it is a fact that about 17.5 million cubic metres of gas are being produced and is it also a fact that the Government of West Bengal has represented to the Centre that licences or letters of intent for production of more industrial gas should be issued and that otherwise the industries will be in the doldrums?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: As I have already said, West Bengal has already a major share. But, if there is any need for more gas, I have already given an assurance that we shall

look into it, and if more is needed. We shall issue letters of intent for the establishment of more factories. But that is under consideration.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: From the statement made by the hon. Minister, it appears that letters of intent have been issued to many firms. I would like to know whether it is a fact that more industrial gas will also be produced in some of the public undertakings or separate units in the public sector producing industrial gas will be set up because the Government's policy is going to be that public enterprises should not depend upon private gas supplies.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not see why we should not depend upon private gas. There is no such thing that gas produced in the private sector should not be used by the public sector units.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Why do you not produce the gas yourself? Why do you depend upon the gas produced by the private sector?

Modification of Telephone Exchanges in Delhi

*820. **SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 43 on the 14th November, 1973 regarding modification of telephone exchanges in Delhi and state:

(a) whether the modification work in the cross-bar system telephone exchanges in Delhi and New Delhi has since been completed; and

(b) the extent to which the telephone subscribers in Delhi have been given relief on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) The modification work in Crossbar Exchanges in Delhi Telephones is under

progress and the major portion of the work will be completed by October, 1974. The entire work is expected to be completed by March, 1975.

(b) About 25 to 40 per cent of the modification work has been completed in the various crossbar exchanges in Delhi. The extent to which the defects causing failure of calls are likely to be removed will be known only after completion of modification in all circuits. Considerable improvement in the quality of service is expected after the completion of the modification work.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: Our Telephone Department is a wonderful Department. It takes a particular type of system without knowing its consequences and then it starts modifications without knowing what results will these modifications produce because the hon. Minister has just now stated that he will only know the improvements made after the modifications, I think when they have started the modifications they must have carried out experiments before and know what these improvements will lead to. Therefore, I want to know who advised you to take up this system of crossbar exchange and as it has proved a failure, have you taken any action against the officers who advised you to go in for it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): This cross-bar system was decided in the year 1963-64, what is called the Pentecosta Cross-bar system was decided after a detailed techno-economic survey by experts.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Foreign experts?

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: Not necessarily foreign experts. Even our people are involved. Later some defects were noticed in the functioning. Several complaints were received