

SHRI D. K. BOROAH: So far as diesel oil is concerned, except for railway and motor truck traction, it is used mostly for industrial and agricultural purposes. We have kept up the production and availability of diesel oil at the same level. There has been some reduction in furnace oil, about 10 per cent, and therefore, we have appointed a Committee headed by the DGTD to see that allotment is done on a very rational and reasonable basis.

Impact of Shortage of Furnace Oil on Drug Industry

*85. **SHRI M. SUDARSANAM:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of furnace oil is adversely effecting the drug industry; and

(b) if so, steps being taken by Government to save the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Representations have been received from the Drug Industry complaining about shortage of Furnace Oil.

(b) A Standing Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary and Director General of Technical Development to regulate Furnace Oil supplies to the various industries.

SHRI M. SUDARSANAM: In view of the fact that furnace oil is very important for the development of the economy of the country may I know whether the hon. Minister will be pleased to ask the Standing Committee appointed in this connection to afford top priority for export industries in the allotment of furnace oil so that they can earn more foreign exchange for the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROAH): Yes, Sir. We have accepted the drug industry as a priority industry engaged in import substitution. Besides the export of drugs of the order of Rs. 10 crores a year, we have decided it is of utmost importance that domestic production of drugs is maintained at the optimum level and any shortage of furnace oil will certainly affect that production. In view of the above facts, the Standing Committee set up under the Chairmanship of the Secretary and Director-General, Technical Development, has been requested to meet the requirements of the drug industry for furnace oil on a priority basis without imposing the general 10 per cent cut on consumption. The Committee has further been requested to allow 15 per cent incremental allotment of furnace oil to such of the units which use it to attain further growth.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : औषधि उद्योग में तेल अत्यन्त आवश्यक है । आपने स्वीकार किया है कि उनकी मांग की कुछ हद तक पूर्ति की जाएगी । इस उद्योग में प्रति वर्ष कितना तेल लगता है और उस में आपने कहां तक और कितनी कटौती की है ? समिति जो बनाई है वह अपनी रिपोर्ट कब तक दे देगी और इसके कौन कौन मेम्बर हैं ?

श्री बेवकान्त बरुआ : यह रिपोर्ट देने की कमेटी नहीं है, यह वितरण की कमेटी है । उन को कहा गया है कि इंग इंडस्ट्री कोयले से नहीं चल सकता, इसके लिए फरनेस आयल चाहिये और बहुत अधिक भी नहीं चाहिये । इंडस्ट्री इम्पोर्ट्स सब-स्टीट्यूट भी करती है और दवाएं बाहर भी भेजती हैं । मनुष्य जवन के लिए दवाएं बहुत जरूरी हैं । इस लिए इस उद्योग को चालू रखना चाहिये ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : कितना प्रति वर्ष लगता है ।

को इतना कम बचता : बहुत ज्यादा
रकम का नहीं होता है ।

SHRI S. R. DAMANI: In view of the shortage which is going to continue for years, may I know from the hon. Minister whether any indication has been given and whether it has been worked out as to what extent it will be possible for the Ministry to meet the requirements of the consumers so that they can plan ahead to meet the requirements of the industry and whether any research has been made to meet this shortage?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: It requires a long reply, but I would like to give it. This Committee has decided four categories of industries. The first is those customers who must use furnace oil for technological grounds, and the quantity of such oil will be 560,000 kilolitres. Category B is, customers who can convert to coal after major modifications which may involve heavy capital investment between six months to one year for the conversion to coal. They would require 15,28,500 kilolitres. Category C : customers who can convert to coal after minor modification within three to six months' time; their requirement is 362.7 thousand kilolitres. Category D : customers who can immediately change over to coal provided coal of requisite quality and quantity is available. Their requirement will be of the order of 622,000 kilolitres. If these are implemented, I do not think there will be any shortage of furnace oil in this country.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: In view of the fact that the small scale steel re-rolling industry in India, particularly in Maharashtra, is facing a serious shortage of furnace oil, may I know whether the Government would ask this Committee to look into the difficulties faced by this industry?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about drugs.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: The Committee has been appointed to regulate the supply to various industries. The reply says so, though the question is about the drug industry.

MR. SPEAKER: The main question is about the drug industry.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: Please protect me. The reply is that the Committee has been appointed to regulate the supplies to various industries.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly sit down. He was asked about the drug industry.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: My Ministry deals with petroleum and chemicals. Re-rolling mills come under the Ministry of Industrial Development.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE: May I know whether this Committee would go into the difficulties faced by the re-rolling industry?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about the drug industry. Confine yourself to that industry. When the other Minister comes you better put that question to him.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I will concern myself with the drug industry.

MR. SPEAKER: What type of drugs?

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Is it a fact that in the name of shortage of furnace oil the big drug manufacturers are trying to curtail production of essential drugs for various motivations within the industry and if so what steps are the Government taking to protect the interest of the citizens?... (Interruptions).

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The reply is simple. They cannot take that plea at all.