

निकाला गया था, जब हाई कोर्ट में उन्होंने अपील की तो उनकी अपील स्वीकार कर ली गई और रेलवे मंत्रालय को कहा गया कि उनको काम पर वापस ले लिया जाय। क्या यह भी सब है कि रेलवे मंत्रालय हाई कोर्ट के आदेश का पालन नहीं कर रहा है और सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जाने की तैयारी कर रहा है? मैं पृच्छा चाहता हूँ कि इसका क्या जरूरत है? उन्हें हाई कोर्ट के फैसले के अनुसार काम पर वापस क्यों नहीं लिया जाता?

श्री मुहम्मद शफी कुरैशी : रेलवे के महत्व को भी आईन के मुताबिक हक है कि फैसले के खिलाफ अपील देने। अगर हम न हाई कोर्ट के फैसले के खिलाफ सुप्रीम कोर्ट में अपील की है तो हमने कोई खिलाफ-कानून काम नहीं किया है।

Import of Soda Ash

+
*286. SHRI D. P. JADEJA;
SHRI VEKARIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Soda Ash is being imported;

(b) if so, the quantity imported during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the names of the countries from which it was imported?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(a) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The quantity of soda ash imported during the last three years and the names of countries from which it was imported are as follows:—

Year	Quantity Tonnes	Country
1972-73	1780	Romania
	2491	Kenya
	4271	
1973-74	2500	Romania
1974-75	2500	Romania

SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Considering the fact that India has been a principal exporter of industrial salt and that being the basic raw material for soda ash, may I know when the Government expect our country to become self-sufficient in soda ash?

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: The production of soda ash actually has not picked up according to the requirements of our country in the past and in fact, we have in the meantime increased our capacity and we have now been importing only a very small quantity of soda ash. In the Fifth Five Year Plan we expect to meet the requirements of our country and we will also be able to export some quantity.

SHRI D. P. JADEJA: The hon. Minister said that in the Fifth Five Year Plan we will become self-sufficient. May I know whether in this country it is only the Tatas, Birlas and the Sahu Jains who are manufacturing soda ash and on the Gujarat coast which produces almost 50 per cent of the industrial salt, has the Government done anything to encourage the co-operative sector or other industrial units to manufacture soda ash?

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: It is a historic fact that the production of soda ash has been confined only to the private sector. But we have now issued letters of intent to the Industrial Development Corporations and we are also encouraging co-operatives and if any specific proposal comes, we will certainly consider that.

SHRI VEKARIA: I am happy to know that the Government expect that the country will become self-sufficient in soda ash within the next five years. I would like to know how many applications are pending before the Ministry for the expansion of the existing industries and for setting up new units and what time it will take to dispose of these applications.

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: We have also received applications for expansion of the present units and as a matter of fact, for the expansion of the Saurashtra Chemicals by 1 lakh tonnes a letter of intent has been granted and it is likely to be implemented by 1975-76 and the expansion of M/s Dharangadhara Chemicals by about 15,000 tonnes will be completed by 1974-75.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that there is acute shortage of soda ash and soda ash is sold in black market at very high prices and actual consumers are deprived of the same. I would also like to know what distribution system the Government propose to set up to avoid this black-marketing and I would also like to know whether any decision has been taken to give priority to consumer co-operative stores for supply of soda ash and whether the Government instructions are carried out or bypassed by the concerned industries to supply soda ash to consumer co-operative stores.

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: The Government have not actually received any sort of complaints regarding sale of soda ash in black market. So far, the supply of soda ash is not very unsatisfactory....

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: How can he say that? It is unsatisfactory. I can prove.

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking the question and the Minister is answering it. Leave it to them.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Perhaps the Minister has not understood my question. I will repeat my question.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is an acute shortage of soda ash and whether he is aware of the fact that soda ash is sold at a very high price in the black market and whether any decision has been taken for any distribution system and to distribute soda ash

through consumer co-operative stores.

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: We have taken a decision to distribute it through some agencies....

MR. SPEAKER: His point was whether it has come to your knowledge that it is being sold in black-market. Is there any such thing?

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: It has not come to our knowledge. The point is this, 50 per cent of the same is sent to the consumer industries and 50 per cent is sold in the open market.

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked whether it has come to your knowledge that this soda ash is being sold in the black-market. If it is sold, if it is a fact, then, whether you have any proposal for proper distribution of this thing.

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: We have not received any complaint regarding supply of this in black-market.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH) Sir, the fact is that there is a marginal shortage of soda ash and because of this marginal shortage....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Don't go on with your commentary; it is very difficult to listen. Order please.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: There is marginal shortage of soda ash and because of this marginal shortage, 50 per cent of soda ash is directly given by the firms for the manufacturers and consumer industries. Now, Sir, if there is a marginal shortage there is likely to be black-market in the conditions of our economy. Black-market flourishes everywhere! The views of the hon. Member whether a better distribution system can be worked out will be considered by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Vayalar Ravi, I felt like giving chance to you, but you always interrupt others. Now I am giving a chance and you may do whatever you like.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The price of imported soda ash is twice that of the indigenous production. Consumers are not getting this soda ash. Monopoly distributors distribute it as per their whims and fancies whenever factory cannot be commissioned for six months because they could not get this soda ash. Will Government take over distribution of soda ash for the proper users?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: I think I have already indicated that the Government will consider what steps should be taken in seeing that it is properly distributed. At the moment four units are there and three of them are in the western region and one in the eastern region. As far as distribution of soda ash is concerned, the question of transporting this from these regions is one of the factors also which has to be taken into account.

MR. SPEAKER: He gets it from his wife; his information is from his wife!

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): Government will have to take notice of that, Sir!

SHRI MOHANRAJ KALINGARAYAR: It has been stated that in the next five-year plan you propose to step up production of soda ash so that we do not have to import this from other countries. Soda ash is supplied by some of the monopoly companies. So, I want to know as to what steps are taken by the Government for expansion of these units. Government wants to encourage the cooperative sector. So, I am asking this.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: In the Five Year Plan, so far as development of soda ash is concerned, apart from the

expansion of Tata Chemicals at Mithapur, by 1.40 lakh tonnes the following licences as well as Letters of Intent have been given to the Fertiliser Corporation of India for 0.60 lakh tonnes, to Tuticorn Alkalies Ltd., Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra Co-operative Fertilisers, Bombay, Orissa Industrial Development Corporation, Kerala, Bihar and Rajasthan Industrial Development Corporations and Saurashtra Chemicals. As regards expansion, only proposals of two firms are pending at the moment.

बेतिया संसदीय निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में उप-निर्वाचन

*287. श्री बिभूति मिश्र : क्या बिबि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या स्वर्गीय पंडित कमल नाथ तिवारी के निधन के बाद बेतिया संसदीय निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में उप-चुनाव कराने की तिथि निर्धारित कर दी गई थी;

(ख) क्या कोई प्रारम्भिक बातें पूरी करने के बाद मतदान की निश्चित तारीख से पूर्व ही चुनाव स्थगित कर दिया गया था; और

(ग) चुनाव स्थगित किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) to (c) The Election Commission had notified the bye-election from the Bettia Parliamentary Constituency with 18th July, 1974 is the date of poll.

However, the Commission received several representations from political parties, such as Bhartiya Jana Sangh Bihar, President, Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee, C.P.I. Bihar State Council, General Secretary, All India Congress Committee and from Shri A. B. Vajpayee, M.P. and others, of them urging postponement of the bye-election on the ground that the situation in Bihar was not conducive