

MR. SPEAKER: It is too detailed a question. They have not got any land yet and you are worried about the allotment?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The rule is that every person, whether a member of a cooperative society, before he is allotted a plot of land, has to file an affidavit saying that he or his dependants or his wife do not own any plot or house in Delhi. Those who cannot qualify under this, that is, those who cannot file this affidavit, will not be given land.

Indo-Nepal Relations

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*309. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement made by the Prime Minister of Nepal as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' of the 20th April, 1971, in which he is reported to have pledged better ties with India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) We have always stressed our friendship for Nepal and, therefore, welcome the Nepalese Prime Minister's statement.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the King of Nepal is visiting India very shortly and, if so, whether they will take this opportunity to discuss about our mutual interests and things which concern both countries and try to develop relations between these two countries.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : His Majesty the King of Nepal is due to pay a two-day visit to New Delhi very shortly—I think, from the 10th June to the 12th June—and during his stay here the Prime Minister and the King are likely to discuss all matters of mutual interest and other outstanding issues

which are at present standing between the two countries.

Self-sufficiency in Chemical Fertilizers

*310. SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether self-sufficiency has been reached in the production of chemical fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, whether import of fertilizers will be stopped; and

(c) whether the cost of production of Chemical Fertilizers has been brought down in order to enable the farmers to bring down the production cost of food crops and other commercial crops?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Cost of production of fertilizers in public sector units and therefore the prices of fertilizers have not generally come down. The position is the same in the case of private sector units as far as is known.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : May I know whether the ratio of production both in the private sector and public sector has not gone up because of the fact that we are not able to utilise the rated capacity and, in that case, whether the Government will take proper steps to see that the projects under public sector are worked to full capacity so that we may be able to come up to the self-sufficiency level?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : It is true that the public sector and private sector projects are not worked to full-rated capacity. As far as public sector projects are concerned, all possible efforts are being made to see that they work up to rated capacity. But in the case of certain fertiliser projects like Sindri which have become too old, even the rated capacity has to be revised in terms of the condition of existing machinery.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : May I know whether the Government have taken any steps to expedite the completion of the coal-based projects like Ramagundam and Talchar and ; if so, when will the projects be completed and production started ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : As far as Talchar and Ramagundam projects are concerned, we are making all possible efforts to expedite them. But on account of various things to be tied up, as far as foreign collaboration, import of machinery and technical know-how are concerned, because these projects are based on coal, it is taking some time. But we are trying our best to expedite them.

PROF. S. L. SAKSENA : There is a great demand of fertilisers and there is deficiency in the production of fertilisers in the country. May I know by what time do you hope to fulfil the demand by our own production ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : As far as production of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertiliser is concerned, it is hoped that by 1975-76, we shall be able to become self-sufficient. But as far as K_2O is concerned, it is imported and, in that variety of fertiliser, it would be difficult to become self-sufficient.

श्री के० एन० तिवारी : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस देश में फर्टिलाइजर की जो प्रेजेन्ट डिमाण्ड है उसमें सप्लाय की क्या पोजीशन है, स्पेशली नाइट्रोजिनस फर्टिलाइजर के सम्बन्ध में ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : During 1970-71, the demand for nitrogenous fertiliser was estimated to be 1.748 million tonnes. As far as phosphatic fertilisers are concerned, it was estimated at 0.567 million tonnes and as far as K_2O is concerned, the estimate was 52.56 million tonnes. As far as the supply position is concerned, in the case of nitrogenous fertilisers it was 0.839 tonnes and in the case of phosphatic fertilisers it was 0.203 million tonnes and, as far as K_2O is concerned, it was all imported.

SHRI RAJA KULKARNI : Will the hon. Minister tell us what was the Plan target for fertiliser production in the first two years of the Fourth Plan? I want to know why the demand is not picking up, falling short of the Plan target?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : As far as demand in the Fourth Plan period is concerned, for nitrogenous fertilisers, it was estimated to be 3 million tonnes and for phosphatic fertilisers, it was 1.20 million tonnes. It is true that as far as demand is concerned, last year, it did not register a proper growth although in the previous years, the growth was from 18 to 19 per cent and it touched even 22 per cent at one period of time. Last year, it had gone down. There may be various factors, may be on account of conditions of rails or various other factors.

SHRI D. D. DESAI : Since you are importing crude for naphtha which is the base raw-material for fertiliser production, what objection have you got to importing ammonia so that fertiliser could be cheaper?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : As far as the question of fertiliser based on imported naphtha or ammonia is concerned, it is a matter which will have to be decided keeping the national interest in view. The entire policy will have to be decided from this point of view. India being a country which is surplus in coal, we will have to think whether we can have coal-based fertilizer or fertilizer based on imported ammonia.

SHRI PAINULI : In view of the fact that there is acute shortage of phosphate in the country and we have to import it from other countries involving considerable amount of foreign exchange, will the hon. Minister please inform us whether it is true that the NMDC has abundant exploration of rock phosphate in Mussoorie hills?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : It is difficult to reply on behalf of NMDC.

Demand of Apology by Pakistan for Harassment to the Wife of India's Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca

*311. SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had demanded an apology from the Pakistan Government for harassment to the wife of Shri K. C. Sen Gupta, India's Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca ; and