

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (c). Under the bilateral trade arrangement between India and U.S.S.R. a contract was signed between the Indian Oil Corporation and 'SOJUZNEETEEEXPORT' of Soviet Union on 21-2-1977 for supply of 1 million tonnes of crude oil during 1977. It would not be in the commercial interest of the Indian Oil Corporation to disclose further details.

श्रीधरी बलबीर सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह एक मीलियन टन तेल रूस वालों से लिया गया और यह ज्यादा भाव पर लिया गया। इसके बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने जवाब दिया है कि यह तेल किस भाव पर लिया गया, यह बताना पब्लिक इन्ट्रेस्ट में नहीं है। जब दूसरे मुल्कों से हमें सस्ती दर पर मिलता था तो पिछली सरकार ने, इलेक्शन के दौरान क्या अण्डर हेण्ड सौदा किया? यह कोई हैवी वाटर या इसी किस्म की और चीज तो थी नहीं जिसके बारे में न बताया जा सके। यह कूड आयल लिया गया, इसके बारे में तो हमें पता लगना चाहिए। क्या मंत्री जी का यह जवाब देना ठीक है?

श्री हेमवती नन्दन बहुगुणा : मान्यवर यह सही नहीं है कि हमने ज्यादा भाव पर यह कूड खरीदा है। पिछली सरकार की यदि कोई बात गलत न हो तो उसको गलत कहना जरा मुश्किल पड़ता है। इस कूड के बारे में हमें रुपये में पेमेंट नहीं करना है, इसके बदले में वे हमारे यहां से सामान ले जायेंगे। मान्यवर, मैं यह स्पष्ट कर देना चाहता हूँ कि यह भाव महंगा नहीं है। मैं आपके चेम्बर में इसके भाव दिखा सकता हूँ। अगर मेरा जवाब गलत निकले तो मुझे सजा दी जा सकती है।

श्रीधरी बलबीर सिंह : मेरा सवाल सीधा-सादा है। दूसरे मुल्कों के भाव क्या इससे कम थे या ज्यादा?

श्री हेमवती नन्दन बहुगुणा : कोई भाव इससे कम नहीं था। जो तेल देने वाली कन्ट्रीज हैं, औपेक की कन्ट्रीज हैं, जो कम भाव पर तेल देती हैं वे कभी नहीं बताती कि हमने किस भाव पर तेल दिया है। जब मैं इसका भाव नहीं बता रहा हूँ तो आप समझ सकते हैं कि इसके मायने क्या हैं।

Construction of New Railway Line from Bankura to Mejia

*453. DR. BIJOY MONDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the direction of construction of the new Railway line between Bankura and Mejia in West Bengal which was decided to be taken in hand by the Ministry in view of the fine coal-belt discovered in the area;

(b) whether the work of the survey has been completed, and if so, when the actual work of having the rail lines is to be taken up; and

(c) whether any estimates have been made and if so, what are they and in what stages the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). A Final Location Traffic-cum-Engineering Survey for construction of a rail link between Bankura and Mejia is nearing completion. The estimate will be processed after completion of the survey. A decision regarding construction of the line will be taken after the survey is completed and the reports examined.

DR. BIJOY MONDAL: In case the coal mines start working, as programmed, and if the construction of the railway line is not completed in time, earlier than the exploration of the coal fields, do as the Minister propose to have consultations with the Ministry

of Coal and Mines to have alternative arrangements for the transportation of coal?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: As far as this line is concerned, its importance grows because it is in the vicinity of those regions where coal deposits are to the extent of 180 million tonnes and they are to be exploited thoroughly. Not only that. One of the additional reasons is that if this route is constructed, it will also help in the development of the Adivasi areas which are in the vicinity. Therefore, taking the cumulative effect of both the factors into account, our present thinking is that we would be inclined to take up this construction work, but we have to await the survey. The survey has to be examined, and only after can we proceed with the construction work. But I can assure the hon. Member that all the necessary steps will be taken.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Question Hour Over.

RE: SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Short Notice Question.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: On a point of order. Rule No. 54(1) reads:

"A question relating to a matter of public importance may be asked with notice shorter than ten clear days and if the Speaker is of opinion that the question is of an urgent character he may direct that an enquiry may be made from the Minister concerned if he is in a position to reply and, if so, on what date."

Sub-rule (7) of the same rule says:

"In other respects, the procedure for short notice questions shall be the same as for ordinary questions for oral answer, with such modifications as the Speaker may consider necessary or convenient."

This question relates to the introduction of additional railway trains and stops which happened six months ago. It is not a matter of urgent importance.

Moreover, Rule No. 41(xii) says very clearly:

"it shall not repeat in substance questions already answered or to which an answer has been refused."

So, two points arise. One is the urgency of the matter. This thing happened six months ago. What is the urgency about it now? Moreover, during the Railway Debate and during the Question Hour itself the same question has been raised about the introduction of trains between Varanasi and other places and additional stops, and answers have been given. You can go through the records.

With your permission, I may also read out an ordinary question which has been rejected:

"Whether the Government has withdrawn the cases of corruption against Shri Prakash Singh Badal, the Minister of Agriculture"

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order order.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Such an ordinary question has been rejected stating that it is a State subject. At the same time, this kind of question is accepted. How can there be two rules?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: May I be permitted to make a submission on the point of order?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The question of urgency has to be decided by the Speaker.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: While allowing Short Notice Questions, the Speaker should also take care to see that the question is proper and urgent and of considera-