

Shri Asoka Mehta: As my colleague pointed out, the Government has taken no view on the matter just now. And, as she also pointed out on the previous occasion, a view was taken only one year before the elections. It remains to be seen when this view will be taken by the Government. I shall look into the suggestion that the hon. Member has made.

Shri S. Xavier: The hon. Minister was just now telling us that there is no distinction made between the Tribal people who are Hindus and those who have been converted into Christianity. May I know whether the hon. Minister will give an assurance that he will follow the same policy in respect of the Scheduled Caste people who are Hindus and who have been converted into Christianity, because....

Mr. Speaker: He need not explain.

Shri S. Xavier: If he cannot, may I know what are the reasons for it?

Shri Asoka Mehta: As far as the facilities to Scheduled Castes are concerned, under the Constitution they are available only to those who belong to Hindu religion and Sikh religion...

An hon. Member: Why?

Shri Asoka Mehta: Why, because it is under the Constitution. You can change it. I am guided by the Constitution. If they accept any other religion, then our effort is to take care of their requirements and give them the provisions that are made for other Backward Classes.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: So many hon. Members still want to put supplementaries on this. We have taken sufficiently long on this. Let us go to the next question.

An hon. Member: Sir, only one question.

Mr. Speaker: Yours is only one, but there are others also. Let us go to the next question.

Collaboration with Kuwait for Fertiliser Production

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*363. **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri George Fernandes:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri J. H. Patel:
Shri A. Sreedharan:
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to collaborate with Kuwait in regard to fertilizer production;

(b) if so, in what respects; and

(c) the terms of the collaboration?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या श्री जी यह बतलाने की कोशिश करेंगे कि इस समय हम किन किन देशों के कॉन्सीडरेशन से यह मॅनोफॅगि की समस्या का हल करना चाहते हैं ?

श्री कृष्णक मेहता : कई प्रोपोजन्स हमारे सामने हैं और उन प्रोपोजन्स के अन्दर प्राइवेट सेक्टर के प्रोपोजन्स में कुर्बान के साथ भी कॉन्सीडरेशन करने के कुछ प्रोपोजन्स हैं। इसके अलावा अमेरिका के साथ है; वही जापान में डेकॉर्ड गैमेंट लेकर गए रहे हैं। कई देशों के साथ है और हमारी कोशिश जर्मनी के साथ भी हो रही है।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : इस वकन मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी आवश्यकता कितनी है और कितना हमको मिल रहा है और कब तक हम सेल्फ सफिशियेंट हो जायेंगे ?

श्री कृष्णक मेहता : बाँधे प्लान के अखिर तक हमारी आवश्यकता रूँबी 24 लाख टन नाइट्रोजन और दस लाख टन

फास्फेट फर्टिलाइजर भी। हमारी यह कोशिश है कि जहाँ तक कम से कम 17 लाख टन नाइट्रोजन और सात आठ लाख टन फास्फोरिक फर्टिलाइजर्स अपने देश में पैदा कर पायें। इस दिशा में कार्यवाही हो रही है। यदि इसके बारे में आप तफसील चाहते हैं तो इसके लिए दूसरा सवाल दें।

श्री ल० चं० सामन्त : क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से जान सकता हूँ कि हल्दिया के फर्टिलाइजर प्राजेक्ट का काम लेने के लिये अभी तक कौन कौन से देश तैयार हैं तथा उन्होंने अपनी क्या क्या जगें दी हैं ?

Shri Asoka Mehta: The hon. Member wants to know about the Haldia Fertilizer Factory. So far there is only one proposal, and that is from Phillip Petroleum. They hope to give a final reply within a month.

श्री अशु लिनबे : जब बिदेशी महायत्ना से ये उर्वरक के कारखाने बनाने की चर्चा उठी थी तब मंत्री महोदय ने मेरे प्रश्न के जवाब में कहा था कि हिन्दुस्तान में जो नेपथा पैदा होता है उसी का इस्तेमाल कर के ये मारे कारखाने बनायेंगे। लेकिन बीच में प्रखबारों में यह खबर छपी कि बम्बई की एक कम्पनी जो बिदेशों में महयांग कर रही है, अपना कारखाना मिनिषट प्रमोनिया के आधार पर बनाने जा रही है। यह खबर और मंत्री महोदय का आश्वासन, इन दोनों में हम कैसे सामन्तस्य बैठायें—मैं इसके बारे में मंत्री महोदय से जानकारी चाहता हूँ ?

श्री अशोक मेहता : एक प्राइवेट फर्म की तरफ से सुझाव आया है कि वे चीन फर्टिलाइजर एण्ड कम्पनी के साथ मिल कर एक फर्टिलाइजर का कारखाना खोलना चाहते हैं। उनके प्रपोजल में यह कहा गया है कि कुछ साल के लिये वे चीन के मिनिषट प्रमोनिया आयायेंगे, लेकिन उनके साथ साथ सल्फर

का सप्लाय भी चीन से आयेगा—मिनिषट सप्लाय आऊ मिनिषट प्रमोनिया एण्ड सल्फर—हम उनकी प्रपोजल को करे में और कर रहे हैं, उस पर गवर्नमेंट ने भी अभी कोई फैसला नहीं किया है।

श्री अशु लिनबे : पहले का जो आश्वासन आश्वासन था क्या उसमें परिवर्तन हुआ ? उस समय आपने सल्फर की चर्चा नहीं की थी और परिवर्तन होने वाला है तो हमें बताने ?

Shri Asoka Mehta: There is a great shortage of sulphur in the world today. The hon. Member knows that we are not able to provide enough sulphur to various plants that are working in India today. Our requirements of sulphur are going to go up very much. We are exploring various ways, including getting sulphuric acid from pyrites, whether we should import pyrites or we should try to produce pyrites so that we can have sulphuric acid based on pyrites. We are also getting sulphur in a regulated way over a period of time from various sources. The question is whether, in order to have an adequate quantity of sulphur, a proposal for link supply should be considered or not. After the Government has made up its mind, this matter will be brought before the House and the House will have an opportunity to discuss this. At this stage, we have not decided this.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: Sir, I request that Question No. 385 may also be taken up.

Mr. Speaker: I wish you had told me earlier. Now it is too late.

श्री लिन० चं० झा : मंत्री जी ने बताया कि उर्वरक के उत्पादन के लिये चीन, जापान और अमेरिका से बालें चल रही हैं, उनके साथ कोलाबोरेशन होने को है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन तीनों देशों के टर्म्स ऑफ एग्रीमेंट कैसे हैं ? दूसरे मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन तीनों की तरफ से क्या कोई पीरियडिकल-स्टिम्ब एटच की गई है या नहीं ?

श्री सतीक मेहता : बड़ा तक टम्ब का सवाल है, मैंने बताया कि इस प्राइवेट फर्म की तरफ से जो प्रपोजल आई है, वह सरकार के सामने है। उस पर तकीकात हो रही है, इस वकत उस के बारे में कुछ कहना मुश्किल है।

श्री सि० बं० झा : मैंने पोलिटिकल स्ट्रिग्ज के बारे में भी पूछा है, क्या ये कोई दबाव दे रहे हैं ?

Shri Asoka Mehta: Political pressure about this particular plant? I am not clear as to political pressure about which plant.

श्री सि० बं० झा : जैसे अमेरिका से उबरक के बारे में एग्जीमेंट होगा, तो क्या उसमें कोई पोलिटिकल स्ट्रिग्ज की बात आती है ? इसी तरह से क्या बर्बन या जापान की तरफ से भी कोई पोलिटिकल दबाव है ? यदि कहीं कोई पोलिटिकल दबाव की गुंजाइश है तो किस मूक के साथ ज्यादा है ?

श्री सतीक मेहता : अभी तक किसी भी फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट के बारे में कोई पोलिटिकल प्रेशर नहीं आया है और अगर कोई पोलिटिकल प्रेशर आयेगा तो उसका जवाब देने की क्षति सरकार में है।

श्री महादेव सिंह भारती : हमारी फमलो के लिये जितना फामकोरस की जरूरत है, उतनी ही पोटाश की भी जरूरत पड़ती है, उनके बिना काम नहीं चलता है। मेरी जानकारी में जितने कारखाने देश में बांद बनाने की बन रहे हैं तथा मन्त्री महोदय ने जो बयान दिया है, उसमें नाइट्रोजन और फालफोरस का ही चिन्त है, पोटाश का चिन्त नहीं है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या पोटाश का भी कोई कारखाना बनाने का, पब्लिक सेक्टर में या प्राइवेट सेक्टर में या किसी की कोलैबोरेशन से या किसी भी प्रकार से, कोई तत्त्व सरकार ने बनाया है ?

श्री सतीक मेहता : के० के लिये जो रा-नैटीरियल चाहिये, वह हमारे देश में नहीं है, इसी लिये हम वह बाहर से मंगाते हैं। इस के बारे में अपने देश में कुछ तरफकी कर सब तो करने की कोशिश में हैं, लेकिन हमें उम्मीद नहीं है कि चीन प्लान में पोटाश फर्टिलाइजर पैदा करने में कामयाब हो सकेंगे।

Shrimati Suseela Gopalan: When we are importing fertiliser, why are our fertiliser plants not working to full capacity?

Shri Asoka Mehta: That is a separate question. When it comes, I shall give a detailed answer.

Shri M. N. Reddy: There was a proposal to set up two fertiliser plants in the public sector in Andhra Pradesh. What happened to that proposal?

Shri Asoka Mehta: I am not aware of any proposals to set up plants in the public sector in any particular State. We are going ahead with setting up four public sector plants simultaneously.

Shrimati Lakshminakthamma: While setting up public sector plants will the Government keep in view the largest consumption of fertilisers by a State?

Shri Asoka Mehta: As the hon. Member is aware, the location of these four plants has already been decided upon.

Shri Ranga: She asked one thing and he gives another answer. Have you taken into consideration the area where the largest consumption of fertilisers is experienced? That is what she has asked.

Shri Asoka Mehta: I have said that only recently decision was taken to set up four fertiliser plants and their locations have been decided upon.

Shri Ranga: Where?

Shri Asoka Mehta: They are near refineries. One is at Cochin, the other is at Barauni, the third is at Namrup and the fourth is at Durgapur. These are the our places where because of the proximity of refineries these have been decided upon.

Shri Ranga: Why was that factor not taken into consideration?

Shri Asoka Mehta: Because of economic grounds it is better to locate fertiliser plants near refineries where you can use the waste products of refineries for the purpose of producing fertiliser.

श्री मधु लिमये : विज्ञापनम मे श्री तो रिफाइनरी है ।

Shri Asoka Mehta: At Visakhapatnam there is a fertiliser plant. It is coming up. It will go into production this year.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Some time ago discussions were going on between the foreign companies and the Government of India to set up fertiliser plants. It is a fact that those discussions have come to a sort of a stalemate because of the fact that the Government of India wanted to have naphtha as the base and the foreign companies wanted ammonia as the base? Is it due to this difference that on the question of having fertiliser plants in India with the help of foreign companies there is a stalemate; if so, what is the final attitude of the Government of India in this regard?

Shri Asoka Mehta: The negotiations that are being carried on with various foreign parties are on the basis of their using supplies that are available in India. As I said, there is only one proposal so far which has come from a firm in Bombay which wants to set up a plant in collaboration with the Kuwait Fertiliser and Chemical Company and they have said that for a limited period of time, they would like to import liquid ammonia with

link supply of sulphur from which two results would flow, that is, firstly, the plant will be able to go into production quickly and, secondly, what is more important is, that it would provide assurance for the supply of sulphur for a considerable period of time. We are considering that particular proposal and we have not taken any view about it. There are no other proposals like that.

Shrimati Jyotana Chandra: May I know from the hon. Minister whether Namrup Fertiliser Factory has been commissioned and, if not, why not?

Shri Asoka Mehta: As far as Namrup Fertiliser Factory is concerned, it will be commissioned this year. But, as I said already, there is a decision taken to expand it to more than double the capacity of that Factory.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: May I know whether a concrete proposal was submitted to the Government to set up a fertiliser factory at Pradip and, if so, what is the progress of that proposal.

Shri Asoka Mehta: I am not aware of any such proposal before the Government.

Shri Ram Kishan: May I know if the recommendations of the Sivaraman Committee with regard to the production of fertiliser have been taken into consideration and, if so, what action has been taken and, secondly, may I know whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to expand the Nangal Fertiliser Plant and, if so, to what extent?

Shri Asoka Mehta: The whole fertiliser production programme has been drawn up in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture which is in consonance with the recommendation of the Sivaraman Committee. As far as the Nangal Fertiliser Plant is concerned, I am sure, the hon. Member knows that it is, at present, consuming 164 MW of power and I do not think

Punjab Government will be interested in it, allowing more power to be consumed in the Nangal Fertiliser Plant.

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham: Is the Minister aware that once a public sector plant was proposed to be located in Andhra? May I ask now, in view of the fact that they are going to set up four plants, whether one will be considered at Kothagudam in Andhra Pradesh?

Shri Asoka Mehta: As I pointed out the location of the four plants has already been decided. As far as Kothagudam is concerned, there is a private company which has got an industrial licence and we are trying to ascertain from them whether they are going to go ahead with the proposal or, otherwise, we will cancel the licence. After it is cancelled, we will see what can be done.

Shri Thirumala Rao: There is a greater demand for fertiliser in Andhra Pradesh. The hon. Minister was pleased to say that a licence issued to a private company is not likely to materialise. Is the Government considering that it should be taken over in the public sector and a plant started at Kothagudam?

Shri Asoka Mehta: I have already pointed out that after the licence is revoked, we shall consider whether a plant should be set up at Kothagudam or somewhere else. For the benefit of the hon. Member, I would like to say that there is a proposal for setting up a plant at Kakinada.

Loans outstanding against States

*364. **Shri S. R. Damani:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans that was outstanding from the States as on the 30th April, 1967; and

(b) when it is likely to be repaid?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) Information as on 30th April, 1967 is not readily available. However, as on the 31st March, 1967 the outstanding loans amounted to about Rs. 4600 crores.

(b) The number of loans is well over 10,000 and the maturity period also varies from 1 year to 40 years from the date of drawal. Further, loans are also continually being granted. It is, therefore, difficult to indicate the year by which the loans will be repaid.

Shri S. R. Damani: May I know whether the loans granted for specific projects have been properly utilised or there are instances, where this has not been done?

Shri K. C. Pant: This is a very general question. If he has any specific project in mind, he may let us know.

Mr. Speaker: He may ask his second question.

Shri S. R. Damani: May I know what is the link between the Bank Rate and the rate of interest charged on those loans?

Shri K. C. Pant: Loans pertain to a long period of time. Some loans are repaid; some others are given to the States. It is very difficult to give the Bank Rate.

Mr. Speaker: The percentage of interest.

Shri K. C. Pant: There are about 10,000 loans. The rates are different.

Shri S. R. Damani: I wanted to know the link between the Bank Rate and the rate of interest . . .

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Prakash Vir Shastri.