

**Setting up of a Gas Cylinder unit in
Public Sector**

33. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have considered the report of the National Industrial Corporation to set up a gas cylinder unit in the public sector; and

(b) The total demand of gas in the country and how it is being met up till now?

THE DEPUTY-MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH) : (a) The report is still under consideration.

(b) No estimate of demand of gases has been made but productions of the existing units is sufficient to meet the requirement of gases in the country and their import is negligible. H. P. gas cylinders are not manufactured in the country and the requirements are being met by imports which are of the order of 40,000 Nos. per annum.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Sir, about six months back Government had said NIDC has been asked to prepare a feasibility report, and now he says it is still under consideration. We do not know how long they will take to take a decision. But what surprises us much more is, when they have not made any estimate of demand of gas how did they come to the conclusion they will require another unit for making cylinders. If the existing capacity is enough and as their report has also said out of the licences that have been given to new firms only one has gone into production, may I know what is the fate of balance of licences given, whether they will be implementing them or they will scrap them? Without knowing the estimated demand or the estimated production of gas how have they come to the conclusion that another unit in the public sector is necessary for it?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : Sir, the matter was given to the NIDC for submitting a project report. Their

report has been received by the Government only towards the end of March or beginning of April — I am not certain—and that is being examined. As soon as the examination is complete we shall take a decision with regard to this matter. There is also confusion with regard to the demand for these gas cylinders. As has been pointed out in our reply, high-pressure gas cylinders are not available in our country. They are being imported. It is only for the purpose of manufacturing high-pressure cylinders that the matter is being examined and it is only for those cylinders that we want to undertake the manufacture. It is true that for this also there were two applicants who had applied for a licence. At one time the licence was given but because of the difficulty is obtaining the credit and because the proportion of equity was negligible the matter has been reconsidered by Government. The Government think it will be much better, when the entire finance is to be provided by financial institutions, this manufacture is undertaken by the public sector.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Sir, the availability of gas in cities appears to be all right, but due to lack of cylinders and other marketing facilities made available its availability in smaller towns and remote areas is negligible. Other means of fuel being very expensive, if proper arrangements can be made to have this in smaller towns and remote areas this would very definitely be a very beneficial thing to the people there. Therefore, may I know from the government what arrangements are being made for marketing and selling of these products in the remote areas of the Country?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : If there is any difficulty it will certainly be taken into consideration by us. Till now we have had no complaints from various quarters that there was any shortage. Now that it has been pointed out by the hon. Member, we shall certainly see what can be done to improve the situation.

SHRI R. BARUA : We find from the answer of the hon. Minister that no assessment is being made of the total demand for gas. Some of the gas which is produced in Assam could not be used for domestic purposes for want of cylinders. May I have a categorical answer from the hon. Minister

that an assessment will be made and the lacuna in providing cylinders will be met?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : I would like the House to appreciate the position that these cylinders are required for several purposes— one is for bottling and transporting gas required for industrial purposes and the other is bottling and transporting liquid petrol. We have sufficient manufacturing capacity to cope with these requirements. So far as high-pressure cylinders are concerned, we are still in short supply and it is for the purpose of manufacturing them that we are considering the question of setting up a unit in the public sector. If there is any difficulty in any area we shall certainly look into it and see that cylinders manufactured in our country are being transported and taken to every part of the country.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : इस समय गैस की देश के अन्दर बहुत मांग है और जहाँ एजेंसियाँ हैं, सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी जिन को दे रखा है, उनके यहाँ काफी क्यू लगी रहती है, तीन-तीन, छः-छः महीने के अन्दर उसका नम्बर आता है तो उसकी पूर्ति के लिए और सभी प्रान्तों में गैस का उत्पादन हो, अधिक मात्रा में उत्पादन हो, इसके लिए आपने कौन से विशेष कदम उठाए हैं और क्या इसके लिए इस समय की जानकारी आपने इकट्टी की है कि इस प्रकार कितनी डिमांड है देश के अन्दर ? क्या इस प्रकार के आंकड़े आप ने इकट्ठे किए हैं ? यदि नहीं, तो अब इकट्ठे करेगे ?

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : मैंने तो बताया कि हमने कोई असेसमेंट अभी तक नहीं किया है लेकिन जितने हम गैस सिलिंडर्स यहाँ पर बना रहे हैं वह काफी हैं। बाहर से लाने की हमें जरूरत नहीं है सिवाय हाई प्रेशर गैस सिलिंडर्स के और असेसमेंट के लिए हम जरूर सोचेंगे कि असेसमेंट हर एक स्टेट में क्या-क्या है वह करके और जहाँ कमी होगी वह पूरी करने की कोशिश करेंगे।

SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL : Because of the shortage of gas cylinders and containers Indian Oil Corporation is not in a position to give distributing agency to

Indane in some parts of the country, particularly in the western region, because of which people of that area are compelled to go in for Burshane or Esso gas which is also not available unless they wait for some months. Enquiries with the IOC reveal that but for shortage of cylinders they will be able to supply Indane to meet the entire requirements of the region. That is why an effort is being made for the manufacture of high pressure cylinders. But nothing has come out of it so far. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is possible to set up a factory for manufacturing gas cylinders in that part of the country where Indane gas is available?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : This question relates to the location of the factory. That will be taken into consideration having regard to the requirements of the country.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI : If I understood the hon. Minister correctly, the Government of India is contemplating to go into the manufacture of high pressure cylinders for various uses and it would be in order for you to calculate your requirement on the basis of gas for transportation from one part to another. But there is an increasing need for transporting liquid chlorine also in this country which needs high pressure cylinders and these cylinders are not at all available in this country. In view of our increasing demand for healthy and potable drinking water, specially in smaller towns and villages, the need for chlorine cylinders which have to be of high pressure and precision-manufactured assumes added importance. Have the government taken into consideration this requirement also before finalising the capacity of high pressure cylinders?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : I can not say because I have not gone in detail through the project report but I shall keep that point in view.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it has come to the notice of Government that the by product gas of Koyali refinery near Baroda is being burnt away for want of these cylinders and in the absence of these cylinders being manufactured by the public sector whether there is any proposal before Government by some private sector company to set up a cylinder-manufacturing unit; if so, whether Government will start at the earliest,

such units either in the public sector or in the private sector in order not to allow wastage of this national wealth, namely, gas?

SHRI F. A. AHMED : That point will be taken into consideration. We are importing gas cylinders for the purpose of high pressure gases. As I have said, two licences were given to parties but they have not been implemented because of certain difficulties. Government have now decided that we should undertake the manufacture of these high pressure gas cylinders in the public sector. A provision for that has been made in the Forth Plan and some expenditure has also been provided for during this year. We shall take action as early as possible.

श्री अब्दुल गनी डार : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताएंगे कि उन्हें इसकी जानकारी है कि इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन के पास गैस बहुत काफी मौजूद है लेकिन वह नार्दन इंडिया में सिलिंडर्स की कमी की वजह से उसे सप्लाय नहीं कर पा रहे हैं और इस तरह से इण्डियन आयल कारपोरेशन या दूसरे लव्जों में देश को हर महीने लाखों रुपये का नुकसान हो रहा है और एस्सो और बर्मा शेल वाले इसका नाजायज फायदा उठा रहे हैं क्योंकि उनके पास सिलिंडर काफी हैं ?

[شری عبدالغنی ڈار - کیا منتری جہودے
بتائیں گے کہ انھیں اس کی جانکاری ہے کہ انڈین
آیل کارپوریشن کے پاس گیس بہت کافی موجود
ہے لیکن وہ ناردن انڈیا میں سلنڈرس کی
کمی کی وجہ سے اسے سپلائی نہیں کر پارہے ہیں۔
اور اس طرح سے انڈین آیل کارپوریشن بادیوں کے
لفظوں میں دیش کو ہر مہینے لاکھوں روپیہ کا نقصان
ہو رہا ہے اور ایسو اور برمائیل والے اس کا
ناجائز فائدہ اٹھا رہے ہیں کیونکہ ان کے
پاس سلنڈر کافی ہیں۔]

श्री फखरुद्दीन अली अहमद : इसी वजह से तो पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग में हमने बनाने का फैसला किया ।

Revision of Prices of Steel

+

- *34. **SHRI S. S. KOTHARI :**
SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR
CHAUDHURI :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI SITARAM KESRI :
DR. RANEN SEN :
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :
SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL :
SHRI P. RAMAMURTI :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that Tatas in a note to Government have asked for an upward revision of steel prices;

(b) If so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) The views of the public sector steel companies in this regard; and

(d) The effect this upward revision of steel prices would have on other industries, Railways and on the economy in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL & HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (d) : Representations have been received from steel plants both in the private and public sectors for an upward revision of steel prices. All the relevant considerations, including the likely impact of an increase in the price in other sections of economy are being examined by Government.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Steel is a basic raw material and an increase in the price of steel would trigger off a chain reaction of increase in prices of products of other industries, such as engineering industries, who use steel as raw material. Therefore, to obviate this chain reaction, would the Minister impose a ceiling on increase in the price of steel? In this context, I would also ask as to how much increase in price has been effected since steel decontrol? At one time steel prices used to be determined on the basis of inquiry by the Tariff Commission and a reasonable rate of return on capital