

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 6, 1967/Chaitra 16,
1889 (Soka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock*

[Mr SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN

- 1 Shri Erasmo de Jesus Sequeira
(Goa, Daman and Diu)
- 2 Shri Devappa Gurulingappa
Patil (Mysore)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Production of Fertilisers, Pesticides
and Agricultural Implements**

*289 Shri D C Sharma: Will the
Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to
liberalise the import of raw materials
and equipment need d for stepping up
production of fertiliser, pesticides and
agricultural implements, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji
Desai): (a) and (b) Imports of raw
materials, components and spares for
production of fertilisers pesticides and
agricultural implements, both in the
public and private sectors, have al-
ready been liberalised from June, 1966
treating these as priority industries.
Under the Liberalised Scheme as app-
licable to priority industries, import
licences are granted to cover the full
requirements for an initial period of
six months and thereafter as soon as
the units have opened Letters of Credit
for 90 per cent or made shipments for
70 per cent of the value of the initial
licence, they can apply for supplement-
ary licence.

122 (st) LSD—1.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know
what is the quantum in terms of per-
centage of liberalisation which has
been given to these industries as re-
ferred to by the hon. Deputy Prime
Minister?

Shri Morarji Desai: There is no
question of any quantum of it. Under
this scheme licences are granted to
cover the full requirements. Therefore,
there is no question of giving any per-
centage

Shri D C Sharma: May I know if
it has been seen to that these licences
are not disposed of in the black mar-
ket, if so, what steps have the Govern-
ment taken to see to it that the
licences are given to the persons who
really fabricate these things and who
make these fertilisers and pesticides?

Shri Morarji Desai: I cannot guaran-
tee that there will be no misapplica-
tion whatsoever, but we are trying to
see that there is none. That is all
that I can say

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji: Is the
hon Minister aware that government
undertakings producing insecticides
and pesticides are not properly en-
couraged and the result is that there
has been slow production, if so, will
the Minister enlighten us as to what
steps are being taken to make produc-
tion-oriented attempts there?

Shri Morarji Desai: I can look into
it only if such instances are brought
to my notice. On a general statement
it is difficult for me to answer.

Shri Baburao Patel: There is another
aspect of this question of pesticides
which I want to bring to the notice of
this House. These pesticides are made
from very dangerous chemicals like
carbon disulphide, calcium cyanide,
methyl bromide and the most notori-
ous DDT. Latest researches in the use

of pesticides have come from America. Independent scientists who are not employed by chemical cartels have given the following opinion, which I am quoting.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should ask a supplementary.

Shri Baburao Patel: This is a very small quotation and this is very important.

Mr. Speaker: I know. But please ask the supplementary. No explanation is necessary.

Shri Baburao Patel: All right. Shall I come to the question?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, please.

Shri Baburao Patel: Is the Government prepared to appoint a committee to investigate the extent of poisonous contamination of fruits and foodgrains by the use of various pesticides and the consequent danger to public health before blindly importing expensive equipments and raw materials for the manufacture of pesticides in our country?

Shri Morarji Desai: Sir, I understand that a committee was appointed and its recommendations have been implemented. But if any details are wanted, I cannot give them today because that does not relate to this Ministry.

Shri Chengalraya Naidu: Will the hon. Minister please consider the question of reducing the excise duty on the import of agricultural implements such as tractors?

Shri Morarji Desai: That does not arise out of this question because this is not a question on import duties.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: Import duty naturally comes out of imports.

Mr. Speaker: The question is about the import of raw materials.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: But import duty is indivisible from imports.

Mr. Speaker: He may give notice of a separate question. The details are not available with the Minister.

Shri S. Kandappan: It is a matter of common knowledge that quite a large number of tractors are lying idle due to want of spare parts. In view of that, while importing equipments for agricultural purposes will Government give priority to spare parts of tractors?

Shri Morarji Desai: May I request the hon. Member to address this question to the Ministry of Agriculture?

Shri S. Kandappan: This question specifically deals with agricultural implements and my question also deals with the same subject.

Shri Morarji Desai: If it is addressed to the Agriculture Ministry he will get the information.

Shri S. Kandappan: Then, Sir, how did the Minister answer the main question?

Mr. Speaker: Evidently, he has no information with him. That information has to be supplied by the Agriculture Ministry.

Shri Morarji Desai: The question of the hon. Member was about the import of spare parts. I do not know if they are required. Even if they are required, I have no objection. But it is for them to say what is required and what is not required.

Shri Shashi Ranjan: In actual practice what happens is while the licence for the import of necessary raw materials for the manufacture of fertilizers and pesticides are issued by the Central Government, the actual execution of the projects lies with the State Governments. Our actual unfortunate experience is that the States take a very long time to set up the units for the manufacture of these things. Will the Minister periodically check up whether the import licences that are issued are properly utilized in time and there is no inordinate

delay on the part of the State Governments?

Shri Morarji Desai: The Finance Ministry's powers are limited. They do not extend to supervision.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: Has the Finance Ministry asked the Agriculture Ministry to find out the possibility of manufacturing organic manure from the locally available resources?

Shri Morarji Desai: We are trying to manufacture whatever we can here. If any suggestions are given in this regard we shall be very grateful to the hon. Members.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: The resources are very great in this country.

Shri Morarji Desai: I am, therefore, requesting for specific suggestions.

Shri R. Barua: How many, of the import licences issued were either surrendered or not utilised on this account after devaluation?

Shri Morarji Desai: I have not got the details. If a separate notice is given, I may furnish the information.

Prof. R. K. Amin: In view of the higher value of the foreign exchange in terms of rupees and the possibility of black-marketing or selling of licences at premium prices, will he consider auctioning of licences and giving subsidies from the returns on the licences to the farmers?

Shri Morarji Desai: This will again increase the prices.

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham: Answering a question the Finance Minister said that he cannot guarantee whether these things will not be sold in the black market. May I know what he can guarantee in regard to these imported materials which admittedly are going into the black market? To what extent can he give the guarantee that these things will not travel into the black market? Have the Government any machinery to see that these things do not travel into the black market? In the light of experience of

these 15 years have the Government set up any machinery or do they not propose to do so?

Shri Morarji Desai: Government are trying to look into it as much as it is possible within the capability of the Government to do so.

Prof. R. K. Amin: That is why I gave the suggestion of auctioning the licences.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: I asked about organic manures.

Shri Morarji Desai: The hon. Member wants to know from me what is being done by the Agriculture Ministry in the matter of organic manure. It is not the Finance Ministry's business to deal with this.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: Has the Finance Ministry asked the Agriculture Ministry to explore the possibility? Your answer is, "No." That is what I understand.

Shri K. Suryanarayana: Will the raw materials and equipment needed for stepping up production of fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural implements be imported by private agencies or by Government agencies?

Shri Morarji Desai: These licences are given to private agencies and also to public sector agencies.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In view of the numerous statements which have appeared from time to time, by people connected with the fertiliser industry and the Fertiliser Corporation of India in this country, may I know specifically what are the raw materials for manufacture of fertilisers whose import Government wants to stimulate by liberalising imports when it is being said that the essential basic raw material resources are available in this country?

Shri Morarji Desai: I have not a list of these with me.

Shri P. Venkatesubbalah: What is the decision of Government in the

matter of import of liquid ammonia in preference to naphtha?

Shri Morarji Desai: This question has been replied by my colleague.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: This Finance Minister is ignorant of everything.

श्री क० ना० तिवारी: अध्यक्ष महोदय, कल यह बात तय हो गई थी कि एक क्वेश्चन पर सिर्फ पांच सप्लिमेन्ट्रीज होंगी। आज के न्यूजपेपर्स में भी यह बात निकली है कि पांच सप्लिमेन्ट्रीज ही होंगी। लेकिन फिर आज इस तरह से चल रहा है।

Mr. Speaker: Even after 15 questions, still so many of them are standing up I agree with you, but there is no point of order.

Shri Fashabhai Patel: Does the hon. Finance Minister know that the private sector set up many factories to manufacture tractors and agricultural implements and before their capacity is reached, while they are starved for lack of components and raw materials, you are importing complete tractors from Europe and America? Has Government got anything to say about that?

Shri Morarji Desai: I can only say that I shall go into this question and examine it.

तिरुवाई सम्बन्धी तिरुमल राव समिति का प्रतिवेदन

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* 290. श्री विभूति निम्ब :

श्री क० ना० तिवारी :

क्या तिरुवाई और विद्युल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि श्री तिरुमल राव के नेतृत्व में तिरुवाई व्यवस्था का अध्ययन करने के लिये नियुक्त अध्ययन दल की विफारिशों को क्रियान्वित करने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Thirumal Rao Committee known as 'Minor Irrigation Team' was appointed in 1959 by the Committee on Plan Projects, Planning Commission, to make a study of minor irrigation works in different States of India with regard to their efficiency in respect of their construction, maintenance and operation, as also their financial aspects. Based on field studies in different States of India, an All-India review of minor irrigation works was brought out. This as well as the reports on individual States, have been sent to the concerned State Governments, for further action.

One of the recommendations of this committee, which pertains to the Ministry of Irrigation and Power also, is about setting up of a High-level All-India irrigation Commission. This Commission is to study the problems relating to location, quantitative assessment of resources, creation of irrigation potential and possibilities of its speedy utilisation along with agro-economic, administrative, financial and other aspects from an All-India point of view. This recommendation is under consideration, and is being placed before the Conference of Irrigation and Power Ministers which is programmed to be held in the next month.

श्री विभूति निम्ब : 1959 की कॉन्सेंट में फैसला हुआ कि माइनर इरिगेशन के सम्बन्ध में कोई कमेटी बने। 1959 में एक कमेटी बनी जिसके चेयरमैन श्री तिरुमल राव मेरो बगल में बैठे हैं। उस कमेटी ने 25 जून 1966 को अपनी रिपोर्ट दी। देखिये कितना समय लग गया। जून 1966 में रिपोर्ट निकली और अब हो गया 6 अगस्त 1967। इस तरह से खेती की पैदावार कैसे बढ़ेगी। इस कमेटी ने जो कुछ लिखा है उसके दो हिस्से हैं। एक तो यह है कि