

यंजी महोदय से यह प्रश्न है कि यह सभी कुछ देखने के बाद 56 से लेकर 66 तक हर साल कितनी सिसडी दी गई और अगर किसी साल सिसडी नहीं दी हो तो उस साल कितना पैसा कमाने में घा गया ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The total figure is not with me but the per quintal figure of the loss incurred by the Central Government was Rs. 2.87 for 1960-61. For subsequent years it was Rs. 2.87, 3.47, 5.12 and 8.11 upto 31-12-1964. From 1-1-65 to 31-3-1965 there was a gain of Rs. 2.38 per quintal. Again from 1-4-65 to 14-11-1965 the figure is Rs. 2.45 per quintal. From 15-11-1965 to 31-3-1966 there is a gain of Rs. 4.46 per quintal. From 1-4-66 to 5-5-66 it was Rs. 4.56 loss, and Rs. 16.65 per quintal was the loss, and at present Rs. 11.46 is the per quintal loss incurred by Government.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question. **Mr. Banerjee.**

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: This is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker: I know, I have called **Mr. Banerjee.**

Fertilizer Crisis in India

+

- *904. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Inder J. Malhotra:
Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what positive steps have been taken to overcome the fertilizer crisis in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that not more than 50 per cent of the expected imported fertilizers has so far reached India; and

(c) if so, the reason or the same?

The Minister of State, in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community

Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

There is no crisis in the supply position of fertilisers. Adequate availability has been ensured to meet the target of supplies laid down for the year. It is, however, a fact that due to delays arising out of factors beyond our control such as non-availability of vessels for lifting of cargoes in time, the recent closure of the Suez Canal and consequent diversion of shipments via Cape of Good Hope involving longer time in voyage, only 75 per cent of the contracted quantities due for deliveries upto June, 1967 are estimated to have arrived. The backlog is expected to be cleared by the end of July, 1967. This delay is not expected to lead to any difficulties in supplies to meet Kharif requirements as the States had adequate stocks on 1-4-1967.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From the statement it is found that there is no crisis in the supply position of fertilisers. It adds:

"It is, however, a fact that due to delays arising out of factors beyond our control such as non-availability of vessels for lifting of cargoes in time, the recent closure of the Suez Canal....."

It has become a fashion in this House to attribute everything to the Suez Canal, because I tabled the question without knowing that there was going to be a crisis, I sent it long ago. So, I would like to know whether the crisis or non-availability of adequate vessels existed even before this crisis, and what was the reason for this non-availability of vessels for lifting the cargo in time.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As I have already mentioned in the statement, the supply position is not very difficult at all. In fact, the State Governments have a carryover of 2.4 lakh tons of nitrogen, which means 33 per cent of the requirements. Thereafter: imports are going on, but their has been a

short fall of 25 per cent as far as imports are concerned, and that was due to the non-availability of ships in the international market. Because of the West Asia crisis there has been increase in demand. I do not know the manifold reasons which might have led to this but availability of ships is very difficult in the international market in the last 1-1/2 months.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In view of the fact that we are having production of some of the fertilisers in our country, I would like to know whether our country is going to reach a stage of self-sufficiency during the fourth plan or the fifth plan or when in the matter of production of fertilisers.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I think this question should be addressed to the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, because it deals with production. My ministry deals with consumption. We are mere consumers.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इन्होंने अपने उत्तर में कहा है :

"This delay is not expected to lead to any difficulties in supplies to meet Khariff requirements as the States had adequate stocks on 1-4-1967".

मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानाना चाहता हूँ कि खरीफ के मौसम के लिए इन्होंने जो उर्वरक, फटिलाइजर, दिया है, क्या उस का राज्य वार ब्यौरा वह देंगे और साथ साथ जो प्रकालप्रस्त इलाके हैं उन के लिए उन्होंने क्या सहूलियतें दी हैं इस की भी जानकारी वह सदन को देंगे ?

Shri Anna Sahib Shinde: I can give the State-wise figures arrived at after discussion and consultation with the State Governments.

श्री मधु लिमये : हां, टेबल पर रखिए और दूसरे हिस्से का जवाब दीजिए ।

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I will lay it on the Table.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, दूसरे हिस्से का तो वह जवाब दें । जो प्रकालप्रस्त इलाके हैं बिहार के हैं, मध्य प्रदेश के हैं, उत्तर प्रदेश के हैं, कुछ बंगाल के हैं, उन के लिए आप ने क्या किया ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: In fact, we took special cognizance of the requirements of the drought-affected areas, and even out of the requirement of the next year actually we supplied during summer to Bihar and other drought-affected areas, and there has been no complaint from the State Governments which are affected by drought that the supply has not been coming according to the agreed figures.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know whether it is a fact that the indigenous capacity of the fertiliser factories in our country is not being fully utilised, and we are paying for imported fertilisers, and if so, to what extent we failed in indigenous production?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As far as the requirements for the present year are concerned, we expect that the nitrogenous requirements would be 13.5 lakh tonnes, phosphatic requirements would be 5 lakh tonnes and potash requirements would be 3 lakh tonnes. Out of this, we expect that the indigenous production of nitrogen would be 4.72 lakh tonnes, phosphatic fertiliser indigenous production would be 2.5 lakh tonnes and that for potash, 100 per cent would have to be imported from outside. The rest of the requirements is expected to be met from imports.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The hon. Minister has stated that the availability position is rather good. But following the withdrawal of subsidy, and the consequent increase in the price of fertilisers, and in view of the fact that the peasants, especially the smaller ones and the middle ones, are finding it difficult to consume the necessary fertilisers, I would like to

know whether they have received such reports from the State Governments and whether the State Governments have requested the Centre again to consider the question of subsidy?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: We have not received any report about the decrease in demand as a result of increase in price. In fact, the pressure of demand is so much that there is some lag between the demand and supply, and the crop loan system which is supposed to operate is expected to cater to the needs of the small farmers so that they are also in a position to meet their full requirements of fertilisers. According to the crop loan system, the loan has to be advanced in kind,—a major portion of the loan is to be advanced in kind, in the shape of seeds, pesticides fertilisers, etc.

Shri P. Venkatasubbalah: The Minister of Agriculture has stated somewhere that in the new agricultural strategy, he is going to give top priority for irrigation. In that context, may I know whether the supply of fertilisers has been relegated to the background or to what extent he is going to co-ordinate the supply of fertilisers with irrigation, and whether there is a change in the policy of the Government so far as fertilisers are concerned?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jagjwan Ram): No, Sir; there is no change in the policy so far as fertilisers are concerned. But it is obvious that fertilisers will become useless if there is no proper irrigation, and irrigation by itself can add to production even if there is no chemical fertiliser. That is what I have emphasised. If there is irrigation, our production will increase and so far as the fertiliser programme is concerned, it will continue as it is.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: Is it fact that large stocks fertilisers are getting accumulated in some parts of the country, in some States and they are not being used, while in other parts, there is scarcity of fertilisers, and

may I know whether steps are being taken to see that the fertiliser distribution is equitable so that those areas which need will be given more, and those which have excess will be asked to give it to others who need it most?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: We have been encouraging the State Governments to have adequate stocks during the off-season period. Sometimes there are delays owing to transport bottlenecks, etc., and there are complaints that sometimes the fertilisers do not reach the destination in time. We are giving rebate to the State Governments so that they are in a position to stock the fertilisers during the off-season period. But, as I have already mentioned, the State Governments were holding in the month of April, stocks to the tune of about 24 lakh tonnes in terms of nitrogen; and though there has been some lag in the imports, the supply position is not likely to be affected. If any specific complaint is there, or if any excess stock is lying, we will be happy, on the initiative of the State Government, to supply it to other State Governments.

Shri Ram Kishan: May I know from the Minister whether, as far as the management of the Nangal fertiliser is concerned, they sent a report that they are prepared to treble the production provided they are supplied with naphtha and, if so, what steps are being taken to see that they increase Nangal fertilizer production?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The question is for the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, Sir.

Shri Ranga: Would any efforts be made to see that fertilisers which are found to be in surplus in the rain-fed areas are allowed to be transported to the other areas when the need arises, as otherwise, what is happening in actual fact is that they are moving underground and while the peasants are using it at one end, the merchants or the dealers who are dealing in it and who supply it at the other hand are acting below the law or above

the law? Would the Government try to avoid this anomaly?

Shri Annasaheb Shinde: The hon. Member comes from Andhra Pradesh. I know that the fertiliser consciousness in Andhra is so much and the farmers are so progressive and they are not satisfied with the allotment and they are trying to get fertilisers from all over India. But may I assure the hon. Member that as far as Andhra Pradesh's requirements are concerned, we have really been very liberal in allowing substantial quantities to Andhra Pradesh.

Election for Presidentship and Vice-Presidentship

*965. **Shri R. K. Sinha:**
Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:
Shri K. N. Pandey:
Shri D. N. Deb:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission have made any suggestion that candidates for the Presidential and Vice-Presidential election should be required to deposit security which should be forfeited in case of their failure to secure the prescribed minimum of electoral support; and

(b) if so, whether Government have examined it and if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government are examining the Question and have not yet come to any decision.

Shri R. K. Sinha: When no security is taken from the candidate contesting for the office of President and Vice-President, why should the poor man contesting for the Assembly or Parliament be asked to pay security money? Will the Law Ministry examine the machinery through which a poor man who goes on a

cycle may be elected to the Assemblies and a man with at least a motor cycle may be elected to the Parliament? Will they think of cheapening the elections in order to make the poor man's entry to the legislatures possible?

Shri D. R. Chavan: Under the Representation of the People Act, candidates contesting for the Lok Sabha or an Assembly are required to deposit a certain amount of money with the returning officer, while in the case of the election for the President and Vice President, the only thing a candidate has to do is to secure one elector as a proposer and another as seconder. Therefore, after the third general election, the Election Commission in their report recommended that the Presidential Election Act should be amended by making it obligatory on the part of a candidate contesting for this office to deposit Rs. 1000 with the returning officer by way of security and in case the candidate fails to get one-tenth of the valid votes, that amount should be forfeited.

Shri K. N. Pandey: Is it a fact that certain persons contest the election for the office of President and Vice-President simply with a view to make themselves known to the public and if so, has the ministry found out any way to check such a tendency, so that such people may not be allowed to contest the election at the cost of public money?

Shri D. R. Chavan: Regarding candidates light-heartedly contesting the election, it is a matter of their intention. I cannot possibly go into their intentions, unless there are certain facts from which I can draw certain inferences.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस मामले में इलेक्शन कमीशन की रिपोर्ट 1962 के आम चुनाव के बाद आई थी। 1967 में जो चुनाव हुए उस में