

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday August 3, 1989/Sravana 12,
1911 (Saka)

Lok Sabha met at three minutes past

Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Supply of Fertilizers to Maharashtra

*243. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers in Maharashtra have
recently been affected adversely due to short
supply of fertilizers;

(b) if so, whether Government have
taken steps to supply adequate quantity of
fertilizers to farmers in Maharashtra State;
and

(c) the measures taken to resolve the
crisis?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) to (c). Adequate
quantities of fertilisers have been made
available to Maharashtra. Allocations from
imported and indigenously produced Phos-
phatic fertilisers have been made to meet the

requirement of DAP and Complexes in the
State.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr.
Speaker, Sir, I have listened attentively to
the reply given by the hon. Minister. Had
there been adequate quantities of fertilizer, I
would not have asked this question. I am not
fond of asking unnecessary questions. The
farmers of Maharashtra have actually been
affected due to short supply of fertilizers.
That is why I have asked this question. There
is a small village named Telara in Maharash-
tra where there is society dealing in sale and
purchase of fertilizers. A few days back, as
many as 300 farmers resorted to agitation as
they did not get the fertilizers. The Manager
of the society said that he had done his duty
by placing an order for one thousand tonnes
of fertilizer on 21st March, but he was help-
less as a quantity of 150-200 tonnes of
fertilizers was supplied. When farmers do
not get fertilizers in time, they have to agi-
tate. We put questions in Parliament asking
the reasons behind the non-supply of ade-
quate fertilizers to the farmers at the time of
Kharif crop. I would like to request the hon.
Minister of Agriculture and the Government
that fertilizers should be supplied to the
farmers of Maharashtra in time, otherwise
the farmers will be ruined. I am constrained
to point out to the hon. Minister that although
he gets 21 days notice for preparing replies
to our questions, yet the matter is not fully
enquired and this type of replies are given. I
would request you to get it enquired against
because the position prevailing there is quite
different than that stated in the reply. I want
a satisfactory answer regarding the reasons
behind the non-supply of fertilizers in time.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir,
so far as Maharashtra is concerned, the total
allocation of DAP fertilizer for the kharif
crops was one lakh and 3 thousand tonnes

in 1988, out of which 84 thousand tonnes was consumed. This time, 1 lakh 97 thousand tonnes of D.A.P. has been allocated for Kharif crops out of which, 1 lakh 62 thousand tonnes of fertilizer has already been supplied and at present, there is no scarcity of fertilizers in Maharashtra. Due to floods, I had gone there on tour for two days, but not even a single farmer or the State Government official or any other person mentioned anything about it. I would like to tell the hon. Member that the supply of fertilizers is adequate there. Last year, the consumption of fertilizers was 84 thousand tonnes, whereas the quantity has been almost doubled this year and 1 lakh and 62 thousand tonnes of fertilizer has been supplied, so that the farmers may not face any difficulty in getting fertilizer. If there is any difficulty in a particular area, a letter should be written to the State Government or the Central Government and we shall make necessary arrangement for it.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no reason to disbelieve the reply given by the hon. Minister, but it means that the supply is not made in time and that is why it does not reach there in time. Whatever might have happened, but since the Kharif crop is over now I would like to know whether the supply of fertilizers for the coming Rabi Season will be monitored by the centre or by the Government of Maharashtra? Fertilizer is very essential for the farmers, so I would like to know as to what arrangements are being made by the Government for providing fertilizers to the farmers in time?

SHRIBHAJANLAL: Mr. Speaker, sir, in order to ensure supply of fertilizer in time, allocation is made in the month of April so that it reaches all the places in the months of April and May, that is, before the sowing of Kharif crops. That is why, out of the total allocation of one lakh and 97 thousand tonnes, one lakh and 62 thousand tonnes of fertilizer has already been supplied and rest of the allocation is also being sent. As compared to last year's consumption double quantity of fertilizers has already been sup-

plied. As the supply has not reached this area, we shall check it up today itself and shall try to send it at the earliest. It is a different thing if any road has been blocked due to floods or there is some other reasons for the delay. Otherwise, fertilizer is available there and there is no problem of fertilizer. The supply of fertilizer all over the country is satisfactory and the availability of the fertilizers is enough to meet the requirement.

SHRIPRAKASHV. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand for fertilizers has increased in Maharashtra due to rains. The hon. Minister has given the figures of 1988 season, but the requirement has now increased. The demand made by our society was 5 thousand tonnes, but not even 500 tonnes have been supplied. There is a demand for 60 thousand tonnes of fertilizers in the progressive districts like Gulabpur and Sangli, but they have been supplied lesser quantity than their requirement. Although supplies have been made yet I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps that will be taken by the Government to further improve the supply of fertilizers?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there may be some reasons for the lower allocation to the society. One the reasons may be that they are demanding more than their last year's consumption, we will check it up. Please give it in writing to us and we will check it up as to how much is their requirement.

There may be problem, if fertilizer is not available, but when it is available with the State Government, they must supply it. There may be some reasons for not supplying the fertilizers, so we shall look into it and try to improve the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jena, what do you want to ask in this regard?

SHRICHINTAMANIJENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of fertilizer is not confined to Maharashtra alone it is there in every State. In Orissa, nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers

are being sold in black market at the rate of Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 per quintal. The fertilizers are also not available with the cooperative societies. The farmers are facing too much difficulties. Every day, I am getting complaints from there. Even to-day two-three farmers are there in my house and they have confined this position. Last week, I went to Orissa and found that fertilizers are not available there. These are not available in the co-operative societies also. But the shops in the private sector are selling fertilizers in the black market. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total requirement of fertilizers in every state and the quantity supplied so far?

MR. SPEAKER: How can he give these details. It is a different question.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I could not understand as to what he is asking but he has asked something about Orissa. He said that fertilizers were available there in the black market only and its supply is not regular. I would like to tell him that whenever there is any complaint regarding black marketing, the State Government should be informed, because the State Government is competent to enquire into it. If it is not checked by the State Government, the Central Government should be informed in writing and shall get it checked. Fertilizers should be made available to the farmers at the rates fixed by the Central Government. His second question is regarding the position of fertilizers in the country. Last year, con-

sumption of fertilizers in the country was 110 lakh tonnes and this year, the target of 125 lakh tonnes has been fixed. Every year, 90-91 lakh tonnes of fertilizers are produced in our country and stock of 34-35 lakh tonnes has also been carried over from the previous year. Therefore, there is no scarcity of fertilizers in the country because 120 lakh tonnes of fertilizers are available with us, whereas our last year's consumption was only 110 lakh tonnes.

[English]

New Licences Issued for acquisition of Vessels

*244. SHRIM.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued new licences to some Indian shipping companies for acquiring new vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a few of the new licences are absolutely new in the ship business; and

(d) the sources of finance of the licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.