

Our hearts go down in sympathy to the members of the bereaved families. May they bear the loss with courage and fortitude.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Indigenous Manufacture of Chemicals

*1. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of chemicals indigenously manufactured out of total requirement;

(b) Whether Government are aware that due to shortage of chemicals, the quality of research in the country is greatly affected; and

(c) If so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c) : Sufficient capacity has been installed/licensed by Government to meet largely the indigenous demand of chemicals. As such, the question of quality of research being affected due to shortage of chemicals does not arise. Nor has any such report been received by Government.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, I seek protection from you. My question was very specific and very categorical. I asked for the percentage of chemicals indigenously manufactured—out of the total requirements, what is the percentage of chemicals manufactured indigenously by indigenous factories, or chemical industries; and what are the requirements of industries and of research laboratories. This question is very specific and very categorical. I want a categorical answer from the Minister to the question, viz, what percentage of requirements of chemicals is manufactured indigenously.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: There are so many chemicals. If I have to count them, they will run into hundreds.

MR. SPEAKER: And there are so many percentages. ..

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: If the hon. Member had wanted to know about a particular chemical, its production, capacity demand, shortfall and how it is being met, I would have been in a position to give that information. On the whole, production of chemicals in the country is quite satisfactory. To a great extent we are self-sufficient. Sometimes, all of a sudden demands go up. There would be a sudden shortage. To that extent we take prompt action to import and meet the requirements.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The import-export policy was not discussed in this House during the last Session. We want that this should be discussed during the current Session of the Lok Sabha. Till the time of the last import-export policy, chemicals and re-agents were being imported. So far as I know only 25% of the total requirement of these items, viz. chemicals and reagents required for industrial purposes and for research laboratories indigenously manufactured in our country. Till the last policy, the chemicals and re-agents were imported. This was allowed under OGL for stocking and sale. This is banned only now by the present policy for individual users. For industry and for research laboratories, they can import chemicals and re-agents for their laboratories and for their industries. But these items cannot be projected, the amount which will be required for the research laboratories, for the industry cannot be projected. As such the import which is allowed for the individual users is quite impossible.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a monologue.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: They require a very small quantity of these items and this is quite impossible for them to import them.

MR. SPEAKER: Can you make it a supplementary, Sir?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA They require these items in a very small quantity. So, it is quite impossible for individual users to get these items from the foreign countries. They will have to pay the minimum charges for their cargo. In view of the difficulty faced by research laboratories and industry, will the hon. Minister review the present policy and will restore what was there in the previous year? e

MR. SPEAKER I think I will have to over rule you

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has not heard it. Let him repeat it.

MR. SPEAKER: In the meantime why don't you take a furlough? You have taken too long. This is the first day and I shall just let it pass. Please for God's sake, next time, you put a supplementary.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know whether your question will be as specific as the first one.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : So far as laboratory chemicals are concerned, they are fine chemicals and they are required in small quantity ; and many laboratory chemicals are reserved for manufacture by small scale industry. Therefore, it is not possible to find out what is the production and what is the demand. So far as the demand of laboratory chemicals is concerned, there is absolutely no complaint whatsoever. The CSIR are doing a lot of research, but they have informed that CSIR laboratories have not faced any difficulty in acquiring chemicals for research purposes of the requisite quantity either indigenously or through import ; and these laboratory chemicals are put on OGL. Earlier, there was a limit of finance. also. Every user has to import only a particular amount of laboratory chemicals, Even that limit also has been waived.

Anybody, if he wants laboratory chemicals to be imported, then under O.G.L. he is at liberty to import any quantity. But so

far the Government has not received any complaints from any organisation about the shortage of laboratory chemicals.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Government consider prohibiting the import laboratory chemicals which are indigenously manufactured in the country? For example, Acetylene black is manufactured in a factory in Hageni of Bellary district and huge quantities of Acetylene black are lying idle because Acetylene from foreign countries is imported. Will the Government think of prohibiting such imports?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : If the indigenous manufacturer is in a position to manufacture sufficient quantity to meet the full demand then there is no question of importing at all. Wherever there is shortage and where there is demand to that extent we have to think of importing such laboratory chemicals under the OGL and wherever there is shortage intermittently to that extent these chemicals are canalised. Only when there are not enough quantities to satisfy the demand, then only importing is allowed. We do not want to resort to indiscriminate importing.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : As an example, we have got enough capacity to produce formic acid in Kerala. While on the one hand very large quantities of formic acid is being allowed to be imported, our capacity is idling. In Kerala there is a factory producing formic acid where large quantities are lying idle. Therefore, will the Government exempt the import of formic acid?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I require notice for this because. I do not have the information.

[Translation]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether Government propose to stop import of Ethylene glycol and whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to manufacture it indigenously as we have huge quantity of molasses available with us for its manufacture?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : We do not have sufficient alcohol to manufacture tyre alcohol based items indigenously.

As such, there is a shortage of alcohol-based products and hence we have to import them.

Setting up of Fertilizer Factories in U.P during Seventh Plan

*2. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state . :

(a) the number of fertilizer factories proposed to be set up during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of fertilizer factories proposed to be set up in U.P. indicating the names of places earmarked therefore;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a fertilizer factory in Barabanki District of U.P. also;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (e).— A statement is given below :

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Eleven new fertilizer, factories, advance action in respect of which had started in the Sixth Plan period, are expected to be established during the Seventh Plan period. Of these, four fertilizer factories would be set up in Uttar Pradesh, one each at Bareilly, Sultanpur, Badaun and Shahjahanpur Districts.

(c) to (e). Number and locations of new fertilizer factories, implementation of which will commence during the Seventh Five Year Plan, can be decided only after the Seventh Plan has been finalised.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : I would like to know the time by which these four factories in Uttar Pradesh would commence production and the likely expenditure to be incurred on them?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Four gas-based factories are proposed to be set up in Uttar Pradesh. Of these, Letters of Intent have been issued to three of them. Letter of Intent to the fourth is yet to be issued. The information which I have regarding the gas-based fertilizer projects in Uttar Pradesh includes IFFCO Aonla Project. The expected date of commencement of this project is 1.10.1984 and it is progressing according to the schedule. The second is Indo-Gulf Fertilizer Corporation. They are setting up a gas-based fertilizer Company at Jagdishpur and its commencement date is 1.1.85. The work on this project has started and it is also progressing according to the schedule. Similarly, there is another project to be set up at Baburala in U.P., letter of intent for which has been issued and the work on which will commence soon. A gas-based fertilizer project at Shahjahanpur awaits clearance and I think, that too will be cleared within a month. But, its date of commencement is 1.4.86.

Thus, I think, the work on the fertilizer projects sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh, will commence as per the schedule.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether there is any proposal to set up a fertilizer factory in Barabanki during the Seventh Five Year Plan as agriculture is the only means of livelihood for the people of that area?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The Seventh Five Year Plan has not yet been finalized. Therefore, it is very difficult to say at this stage how many fertilizer projects can be or would be included in that Plan.

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister the criteria for selecting the site for setting up of a fertilizer plant.

[English]

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The criteria is that the demand of fertiliser is growing in the country and the production is not as per the demand, So, there is a shortfall. We are importing large quantities of fertilisers from other countries. In order