

श्री सभापति : उनकी स्टेटमेंट के बाद अपनी बात कहने का आपको मौका मिलेगा।

Now, we will have the Question Hour...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: The Question Hour should be suspended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is over. Question No. 261.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Demand and allocation of fertilizers

*261. KUMAR! NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the demand and actual allocation of fertilizer during Kharif and Rabi season to the States. State-wise for the last three years, with year-wise and season-wise breakup including for the current season;

(b) percentage increase in use of fertilizers, State-wise, for the last three years;

(c) extent of import of chemical fertilizers over the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) steps taken to augment domestic production of chemical fertilizers during the Eighth Five Year Plan and proposed during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under statutory price control and for which assessment of demand and allocation are made. A statement indicating the assessed requirement and actual allocation of urea to the States and Union Territories during Kharif and Rabi season of 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 is at Annexure-I [See Appendix 185, Annexure No. 5I]

(b) A statement indicating the percentage increase of the consumption, of fertilizer in terms of nutrients (NPK) in different states during 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 is at

Annexure-II [See Appendix 185, Annexure No. 5I],

(c) The quantity of major chemical Fertilizers imported during the last three years has been as follows:

(in Lakh MT)			
Fertilizer	Quantity imported during		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Urea	37.18	23.28	23.89
Di-Ammonium			
Phosphate	15.14	5.34	14.60
Muriate of			
Potash	21.92	10.21	19.00

(d) The strategy for augmenting the domestic production of chemical fertilizers during the Eighth Plan and proposal for the IX Plan include the following:

- expansion/retrofitting/revamping of existing fertilizer plants;
- overcoming the constraints in the availability of natural gas by setting up naphtha-based fertilizer plants and installing dual fuel/feedstock facilities in the existing plants and projects under implementation; and
- setting up joint venture projects in countries having abundant and cheap raw material resources.

KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to the fact that the farmers in India are in such a plight that some of them had to commit suicide because of the burden of loans for fertilizers.

Soil is also being depleted. May I refer to a book by Lady Eve Balfour, 'The Living Soil'. Soil is a living entity and we are not taking proper care of the soil. In order to help the farmers, save the farmers, save the land and save the mother-earth, it is necessary to encourage bio-fertilizers, organic fertilizers like vermi-compost, cowhorn manure and compost of various kinds. May I ask the Government what steps are being taken in this regard?

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member is right in her observation that some stresses and imbalances are being

witnessed on account of overuse of fertilizers not only in India but the world over and there is a very strong case of desirability of use of balanced fertilizers in terms of NPK, i.e. chemical fertilizers as well as organic manure and compost which is the basic fertilizer and which is essential for sustainable development of agriculture and minimising the environmental and ecological hazard caused by the overuse of chemical fertilizer and other substances. As far as Government of India is concerned, Government is aware, we are alive to the situation and we have already allocated Rs. 46 crores during the Ninth Plan for encouraging use of compost manure, organic manure and also bio-fertilizers. For bio-fertilizers, Sir, there is a scheme wherein we give Rs. 20 lakhs as one-time grant and some 300 such plants are being envisaged to be set up during the Ninth five Year Plan and to encourage .compost manure. Sir, Rs. 5 crores per plants has to be given to various urban authorities like municipalities and municipal corporations who may come up with plans to set up compost manufacturing plant out of the urban refuse and sewerage.

KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE. Sir, this is a valuable suggestion and government has already launched an extensive awareness campaign through its own departments and agencies as well as the ICR system. There are 28 agricultural universities, more than 100 research centres and 261 *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* set up throughout the country and the State Governments are also doing the same to promote a balanced use of fertilizers and organic manure.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : सभापति जी, हमारे देश में आजादी से पहले गोबर की खाद और हरी खाद का इस्तेमाल होता था और वह खाद खाद्यान्नों को कुप्रभावित नहीं करती थी। आजकल जितने उर्वरक हैं इनका अप्रत्यक्षरूप से कुप्रभाव खाद्यान्नों पर पड़ता है और मनुष्य के शरीर पर भी कुभाव खाद्यान्नों पर पड़ता है और मनुष्य के शरीर पर भी प्रभाव पड़ता है और मनुष्य के शरीर पर भी प्रभाव पड़ता है। पहले गोबर का उपयोग रसोई में भी होता था लेकिन आज उतना उपयोग नहीं होता है। मैं कृषि मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या गोबर की खाद और हरी खाद को फिर से इस देश में किसानों के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जा सकता है ? अगर प्रोत्साहित किया जा सकता है तो उसकी व्यवहारिकता कितनी होगी ?

श्री सोमपाल : सभापति महोदय, मैं पूर्व प्रश्न में उत्तर

में भी यह बात कह चुका हूँ और पुनः दोहराना चाहता हूँ कि गोबर और इस तरह के जो अवशेष हैं फसलों के और जो कूड़ा-करकट हैं उसके द्वारा कम्पोस्ट हैं। खाद बनाने की विधि जो भारत में पहले से प्रचलित थी और विश्व मानता है कि हमारे यहां दस हजार वर्ष का तो कृषि का इतिहास मिलता है जो विश्व में प्राचीनतम है। इसमें इस प्रकार के जैविक पदार्थों के माध्यम से उर्वरकता को बनाए रखने के लिए पहले से प्रयोग होता रहा है जिसमें गोबर की बहुत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है। गोबर के खाद की क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए नए प्रयोग भारत में हुए हैं। महाराष्ट्र में एक नेडेब कम्पोस्टिंग नाम का प्रयोग है। जिसमें वर्मी कल्चर के माध्यम से गो-सूत्र, पशुओं के मूत्र और गोबर को मिलाकर उनका फर्मलेशन करके, उसमें केचुओं को डालकर, उसकी गुणवत्ता बढ़ाई जाती है जिससे पौधों और फसलों को अधिक सुलभता से प्राप्त हो सके। और उसकी पैदावार बढ़ाई जा सके, बिना रासायनिक पदार्थों के ऊपर निर्भर हुए और उनका उपयोग घटाकर। यह कार्यक्रम पहले से है। भारत सरकार इसके लिए विभिन्न प्रोत्तान कार्यक्रम और सहायकता केन्द्र प्रायोजित करके, केन्द्रीय योजनाओं के माध्यम से राज्य सरकारों को सहायता देकर, अपनी विस्तार सुविधाओं और जानकारी के माध्यम से प्रोत्साहित करने का कार्यक्रम पूर्व ही चला रही है।

श्री बालकवि बैरागी : सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से कृषि मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि जैसा जिक्र किया है कि लोक अभियान के लिए 261 कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्रों का जाल बिछा रखा है लेकिन 1996 तक जो सरकारें थीं उनका संकल्प था कि लोक अभियान के लिए, कृषि के अन्य उपकरणों व अन्य सुविधाओं के लिए प्रत्येक जिले में एक-एक कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्र कायम कर दिया जायेगा। शेष जिलों में लोक अभियान के चरण को कब पूरा करेंगे ? सरकार के पास क्या कोई संकल्प या कोई योजनाबद्ध कार्यक्रम है ?

श्री सोमपाल : माननीय बालकवि बैरागी जी ने जो लोक अभियान की चर्चा की है, यह बात सही है कि 261 कृषि वैज्ञानिक केन्द्र स्थापित किए जा चुके हैं। भारत के जनपदों में उनकी बहुत बड़ी भूमिका है। यह बात सही है कि किसी एक स्थिति में यह संकल्प लिया गया था कि भारत में प्रत्येक जनपद में तकनीकी और प्रौद्योगिकी के हस्तांतरण के लिए कृषि वैज्ञानिक केन्द्रों की स्थापना की जाये। पूर्व सरकार ने इसको बीच में रोक दिया था। इसको आप अन्यथा न लें। परन्तु भारत सरकार ने यह निर्णय किया है कि नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में, सभी जनपदों में एक-एक कृषि वैज्ञानिक केन्द्र स्थापित किया जाए। इस

योजना को हमने स्वीकृति के लिए पहले ही भेज दिया था। जैसे ही ये स्वीकृत होगी हमारा यह प्रयास है कि नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के वर्ष 2002 तक प्रत्येक जनपद में एक कृषि वैज्ञानिक केन्द्र स्थापित हो जाए। लोक अभियान के संबंध में, मैं यह निवेदन करूंगा कि किसी कविता की रचना करें जिससे उपयोग भी किया जा सके।

श्री बालकवि बैरागी : यह बात आप सामने बैठे हुए कवि से भी कह दीजिए।

श्री सभापति : बैरागी जी, हो गया।

श्री सोमपाल : मैं दोनों से ही निवेदन कर रहा हूँ।

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, I must say that the hon. Minister has given a very informative reply. मैं गोबर से वापस यूरिया पर वापस आ रहा हूँ

In part (c) of the reply, it has been specifically mentioned that in 1995-96, 37 lakh tonnes of urea was imported. It was 23 lakh tonnes in 1996-97 and 23.89 lakh tonnes in 1997-98. I think, this year, you have imported about six lakh tonnes which cost about Rs. 250 crores.

मेरा एक ही सवाल है। मेरे बरनाला साहब की चिट्ठी है। प्रधान मंत्री जी बैठे हुए हैं। दीपक तले अंधेरा। दुर्गापुर फर्टिलाइजर कारखाना बंद पड़ा हुआ है। कई सालों से पैंतालीस करोड़ का रिप्लेसमेंट चाहिए। अगर पैंतालीस करोड़ का रिप्लेसमेंट हो जाता है — The only problem for him is that there is no money. Rupees forty-five crores! सिकन्दर बख्त साहब के पास नोन-प्लान से 517 करोड़ रुपया वी आर एस देने के लिए है।

But this Ministry does not have Rs. 45 crores to restart a urea plant which can be started right there. The farmers are crying for fertilizers. Would the Prime Minister, at least, assure this House that this will not continue and something will be done for this? This is too much.

दीपक तले अंधेरा है, किसान बोल रहा है। Would you kindly intervene? वहाँ कारखाना है, खाद नहीं है। यशवंत सिन्हा उन्हें पैंतालीस करोड़ रुपये दे रहे हैं। एक एश्योरेंस आप दे दीजिए। आप उठकर बोल दीजिए। आपने सभी तक इस हाउस में एश्योरेंस में आपने एज ए प्राइम मिनिस्टर मुझे आश्वासन दिया तो मैं भी दो

साल याद रखूंगा। पूर्व प्राइम मिनिस्टर नरसिंहा राव ने मुझे एश्योरेंस दिया था लेकिन अभी तक आपने नहीं दिया है।

प्रधान मंत्री श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : जो मामला मेरे मित्र ने उठाया है उसके बारे में मैं वित्त मंत्री से बात करूंगा।

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Sir, there are two major companies manufacturing fertilizers, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India. But, unfortunately, both the manufacturing companies are running under losses and they have been referred to BIFR. What is the reason for losses? Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government will reduce the prices of fertilizers to be supplied to agriculturists.

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, so far as losses of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation are concerned, the information is not readily available with me but I will find it out from the Ministry of Fertilizers and we will supply it to the hon. Member.

So, far as a proposal for reducing the prices is concerned, there is no such proposal. The prices are reasonable and whatever prices the farmers are to pay are included in the cost computation while we decide the minimum support price for various crops which are 24 in all. Therefore, on prices front, there is no problem and no complaint from the farmers saying that the prices are high.

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: What is the demand of Karnataka with regard to DAP and MOP? Ryots there are suffering. Why has MAP and SOP not been supplied in time?

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, the overall assessed requirement this year for DAP was 31 lakh tonnes and the availability during the current year is 35 lakh tonnes. It is four lakh tonnes more than the assessed requirement. The assessed requirement was much higher than the previous year. Overall, there is no such shortage of either MAP or DAP. Sir, during the Khariff season, from certain places shortage of MAP was reported and seven lakh tonnes have already been imported; totally 17 lakh tonnes has been lined up and it is on the way. Currently there is no shortage of MAP. So far as DAP is concerned, again the overall availability

according to the requirement is rather more but from certain places and States, shortage had been reported. The main reason was that imports had to be lined up and there was bunching. All the ships which were coming with the import had been lined up at JNPT and Vizag ports. Particularly we had problems in evacuating 1.3 lakh tonnes imported through Vizag Port because there were two cyclones in Andhra Pradesh and evacuation was delayed by three-four weeks. Now this has already been evacuated. 1.10 lakh tonnes has already been brought in and it has been supplied to all the States. Currently, no shortage is reported by any State except the States, of West Bengal where fertilizer will be needed with a delayed effect and it is being reached to West Bengal too.

श्री जनार्दन यादव: बिहार में भी नहीं मिल रहा है ।

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: There is non-supply of fertilizers in time. The season has gone. Ryots suffered to a great extent and they cannot be compensated in any manner. Had it been anticipated, it could have been avoided and the manure could have been supplied.

Manufacture of alcohol from coarse grains

*262. SHRI OP. KOHLI:

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Times of India' dated the 18th November, 1998 captioned "Whisky from poor man's food";

(b) whether Government have given clearance to multinational beverage giant Seagram for manufacturing alcohol from coarse grains like bajra, maize, sorghum and millets;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether government are aware that these coarse grains are mostly consumed by poor sections of society;

(e) whether Government have taken into consideration the impact such a move will have on the supply and prices of such foodgrains; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Manufacture of alcohol from coarse grains

Government have seen the news item. After liberalisation of the economy in 1991 foreign investment was also allowed in the potable alcohol sector. The policy for foreign investment in the potable alcohol sector envisaged setting up of joint ventures with only those Indian companies who were holding valid industrial licence to make alcoholic drinks from no,"i-molasses based raw-material. The raw-material which could be used included potatoes, tapioca, mahua flowers, cashew, apple, sugarbeet, beetroot, fruits of various types, coarse grains (maize, jawar, bajra), spoiled wheat/rice. In accordance with this policy M/s. Seagram Co. Ltd., Canada were granted Foreign Collaboration Approval on 20.7.1993 to set-up a wholly owned subsidiary for establishment of non-molasses based manufacturing/blending facility of 25,000 kilolitres per annum. The approval was subject to the condition that manufacturing/blending will be done with an existing licence holder and using existing licenced capacity. Subsequently, Letter of Intent held by Shri Anil Jain with a capacity to produce 5,000 KLs per annum of potable alcohol based on non-molasses raw-materials was transferred in favour of the joint venture company viz. M/s. Seagram manufacturing Ltd. on 20.5.1994. The Letter of Intent was converted into industrial Licence on 15.12.1994.

The Industrial Licence contains an explicit condition about the manner in which the raw-material is to be procured by the licence holder. The condition reads as under:-

In respect of raw material, procurement will not be made from open market but from or through the Food Corporation of India or from recognised Central/State Agencies. In the event

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri OP. Kohli.