

RAJYA SABHA

*Monday, the 13th March, 1989/the 22nd
Phalgun, 1910 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock.
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Encouraging the use of natural gas as fuel

*241. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further encourage the use of natural gas as fuel due to its being economical; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposals in this regard which are at present under the consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Natural gas is being used as an industrial and domestic fuel and as a fuel for power plants in various parts of the country. There are a number of requests received from time to time for the use of gas as industrial, domestic fuel and for power generation. Its further use as a fuel would *inter alia* depend upon the availability of gas in the future and its use in other sectors like fertilizers where it is primarily used as a feedstock, bearing in mind the need to optimise the use of gas.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Sir, I want to know what is the annual production of natural gas in the country.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, the annual production of natural gas for the last five years is like this. In 1984-85, it was 19.8 million cubic metres a day, in 1985-86,

22.2 million cubic metres a day, in 1986-87, 27 million cubic metres a day, 1987-88, 31.3 million cubic metres and in 1988-89, we anticipate 35 million cubic metres a day. These figures are million cubic metres a day.

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Sir, what are the places in the country where natural gas has been found during the last six months and is there any plant for this natural gas refilling in U.P.?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Pardon?

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Do you have any proposal to set up a natural gas refilling plant in U.P.? Is there any plan, Sir?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, as far as the location and finding out of natural gas is concerned, recently we have struck gas in K.G. basin in Andhra, Godavari district, Cauvery basin and also in some parts of Gujarat. As regards the second part of the question, the hon. Member is aware that U.P. is a land-locked State. So, in order to have compression facility, first we have to have a terminal. We cannot have a terminal in U.P. But of Course, in U.P. we are setting up eight LPG Bottling Plants. Seven are under construction or near completion. For the eighth one, which is in Gorakhpur, land has been acquired.

SHRI NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, though my supplementary is related to the Department of Energy yet it has a direct impact on the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas. That is why I am asking this question. Sir, majority of the people in most parts of the country are using electricity illegally for cooking purpose. In some areas, in each and every house, there is an electric stove and they are using electricity illegally. They are making arrangements so that the meter reading will not go up in the meters. Has this illegal use of electricity any direct impact on this department?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That does not apply to him.

SHRI NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: No, Sir, it has direct impact on the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For that you have to ask Mr. Sathe. When natural gas is converted into electricity, then if it is misused, he can take action...

SHRI NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: No, Sir. This natural gas is used for cooking purpose, but instead of using that, people are using electricity illegally.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question? Please put your question.

SHRI NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: This illegal utilisation of electricity has a direct impact on the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down.

SHRI NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put crisp questions and get crisp answers. You ask a question on gas. He is the Minister for that.

MR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Both the Ministers are here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ratnakar Pandey.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय: माननीय सभापति जी, मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि प्राकृतिक गैस का प्रयोग औद्योगिक और घरेलू ईंधन तथा बिजली घरों हेतु ईंधन के लिए किया जा रहा है और साथ ही बहुत से अनुरोध इसके उपयोग के संबंध में प्राप्त हुए हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि किस किस माध्यम से सरकार को स्पेसिफिक अनुरोध प्राप्त हुए हैं और सरकार ने उन पर क्या कार्यवाही की है? मुझे पता लगा है कि तमिलनाडु में प्राकृतिक गैस का डीजल के स्थान पर प्रयोग किये

जाने के लिये मंत्रालय से एक प्रयोग कराया है। मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस विषय पर क्या प्रगति हुई है? इन दोनों विषयों पर मैं मंत्री महोदय से विस्तृत जानकारी चाहूंगा?

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त: मान्यवर, माननीय सदस्य ने जो जानकारी चाही है इस संबंध में इस वक्त तस्वीर इस तरह की है कि 45 फीसदी हम लोग उर्वरक के लिये इस्तेमाल करते हैं, 35 फीसदी विद्युत उत्पादन के लिये इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं और जो एल. पी. जी. उसमें से निकालते हैं और वह 17 फीसदी है और 3 फीसदी और कामों में जा रहा है। महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात, तमिलनाडु, आंध्र, उत्तर प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, दिल्ली, राजस्थान सभी जगहों से ये सुझाव प्राप्त हो रहे हैं और मांग हो रही है कि हम प्राकृतिक गैस उनको विभिन्न कार्यों के लिये दें।

श्री सभापति: ये कार चलाने की बात कर रहे हैं।

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त: इस सवाल पर भी आऊंगा।

यह हम उनको यथासंभव उपलब्धता के हिसाब से दे भी रहे हैं। योजना आयोग में एक ग्रुप बनाया गया है जो यह पता लगाये कि प्राकृतिक गैस का अधिकतम उपयोग क्या हो और वह भी हमारे पास में है और विभिन्न मंत्रालयों से सलाह करके इसको कर रहे हैं। महोदय, प्राकृतिक गैस से कार चलाने के प्रयोग किये गये। यह गुजरात में किया गया है, त्रिपुरा में किया गया है। इसको हम लोग ऐसे इलाकों में ज्यादा करना चाहते हैं जो कि दूरस्थ इलाके हैं। लेकिन इसके लिये थोड़ा परिवर्तन कार की मशीन में भी करना पड़ेगा। यह बहुत जल्दी हो जायेगा। यह तो मैं नहीं कह सकता....

श्री सभापति: उसका प्रयास कर रहे हैं।

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त: लेकिन उसका प्रयास कर रहे हैं।

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister what quantity and worth of natural gas is flared daily in the oil fields of Assam and whether the Government has any proposals on hand for setting up some plants for utilisation of the gas.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, in 1984-85, the flaring of gas was to the extent of 42 per cent. Now it has come down to 29 per cent. At present I do not have the break-up of figures for Assam. But in Assam, flaring has to be there because it comes as associated gas. Free gas is never flared. Associated gas is technically flared. As the hon. Member is aware, there had been a seminar on the use of natural gas in Assam. We are already examining a proposal, putting forward a proposal, to link all the production centres of natural gas by a pipeline and also to supply natural gas to a power plant in Assam and to various other industries. For example, we are supplying it to tea gardens. We are trying to explore other uses also in the entire north-eastern region because in Assam there is substantial quantity of gas available and in Tripura also substantial quantity of gas is available. We are making a very concerted effort to utilise it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can associated gas not be used for other purposes?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Associated gas comes automatically with production of crude. Actually flaring relates to associated gas. No flaring is done for free gas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is true. Can associated gas be used for other purposes?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: It is as good as free gas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you examining the possibilities of other uses?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: We are already doing that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is, use of associated gas for other purposes.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Yes. I have submitted figures. The flaring has been reduced from 42 to 29 per cent in the last four years.

श्री धर्मपाल: सभापति जी, मैं मन्त्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो रियासतें पहाड़ी रियासतें हैं जहाँ जंगलों की बहुतायत है क्या यह सही है कि वहाँ के लोग कुकिंग परंपरा के लिए जंगलात का नुक्सान करते हैं। क्या मन्त्री महोदय इनवायर्नमेंट को बचाने के लिए इन रियासतों में जैसे जम्मू काश्मीर, मध्य प्रदेश के पहाड़ी इलाकों में एल० पी० जी० की ज्यादा मिकदार मुहैया करेंगे ताकि जंगलात का जो नुक्सान हो रहा है उससे बचा जा सके। क्या इन पहाड़ी रियासतों के लोगों को वे इनकरेज करेंगे ताकि वे एल० पी० जी० का इस्तेमाल करें?

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त: मानयवर, विद्वान सदस्य ने जो बात कही है मैं उन से भी ज्यादा इस बात से सहमत हूँ उन्होंने खाली इनकरेज करने के लिए बात कही है हमने तो एक बहुत बड़ा कदम उठाया है। योजना आयोग ने जिन इलाकों को पहाड़ी इलाका घोषित किया है चाहे जम्मू काश्मीर हो, हिमाचल प्रदेश हो, उत्तर प्रदेश हो, सिक्किम हो, आसाम हो, अरुणाचल प्रदेश हो, त्रिपुरा हो, नीलगिरी हो, मालाबार हो या जो मध्य प्रदेश और गुजरात के जंगलात के इलाके हैं वहाँ हम ट्रांसपोर्ट सबसिडी दे रहे हैं बहुत से इलाके ऐसे थे जहाँ 60 रुपये का सिलेंडर 130 रुपये का पड़ता था वह सारी सबसिडी हमने अपने ऊपर ले ली है। हमने एक कदम और उठाया है वह यह है कि हर स्टेट के प्लेन इलाके में हमने एक बाटलिंग प्लांट भी लगा दिया है। जम्मू-काश्मीर राज्य में जम्मू में, हिमाचल में परवानू में, गढ़वाल में हलद्वानी में।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good.

श्री गुलाम रसूल मय्यद: जनाब एक सेमिनार हुआ था जिस में फैसला हुआ था कि अगर मुफ्त सिलेंडर भी दिया जाए तब भी हमको इतनी बचत होगी कि काफी बचत होगी।

श्री सभापति: चलो अब आपका सप्लीमेंटरी खतब हो गया।

SHRI P.K. KUNJACHEN: As per study, the natural gas belt, the Arabian gas belt, is extending from Bombay to Kanyakumari. Considering the shortage of gas in the southern zone and also of electricity, will the Government consider

establishing some rigs in some parts of Kerala and taking gas from there directly and supplying to Kerala and other southern States?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: The Kerala-Konkan basing is already under exploration. We have put a rig there. And, if fortunately, we find gas or oil there, it would be definitely utilized.

SHRI P.K. KUNJACHEN: Gas can be used for electricity. In Kerala and Karnataka there is shortage of 18-19 per cent. Nowhere in India such a position is there. At other places it is 2 or 3 per cent shortage. Considering that, I am asking whether some rigs will be established on the coast of Kerala or Karnataka, gas will be taken and utilized for producing electricity?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: I have already submitted that we have put a rig on the Karnataka-konkan off-shore basin. The possibility of locating gas in Karnataka is remote at this juncture. We are concentrating on those areas which are...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is also asking about taking gas to these places from Bombay High.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: No, from Bombay High it is impossible, technically. But if in Cauvery basin a substantial quantity of gas is available, then it will be possible.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया: सभापति महोदय, जब कभी भी आयल या गैस इंस्टालेशंस को देखा जाए तो उनकी चिमनियों में से फ्लेम्स निकल रही होती हैं।

श्री सभापति: उसका जवाब दे दिया है मन्त्री जी ने एसोसियेटेड गैसेज़ के बारे में।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया: मुझ को थोड़ा सा पूछ लेने दीजिये। साधारण आदमी जो गैस इंस्टालेशंस के बारे में नहीं जानता है उसका पहला प्रश्न यह होता है कि यह नेशनल लास है नेशनल ब्रंडम हो

रहा है। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि मैंने इससे पहले भी इनसे सवाल पूछा है कि हिन्दुस्तान में इस गैस से गैस टरबाइंस चलाने की प्रथा कब शुरू करेंगे। सिर्फ यही नहीं। बम्बई म्यूनिसिपैलिटी कारपोरेशन ने एक प्रोजेक्ट पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्ट्री को जमा कर रखा है कि बम्बई शहर के अंदर हर घर में पाइप से गैस कनेक्शन देने की फैसिलिटी दी जाये। इस पर मंत्रालय क्या कोई विचार कर रहा है या निकट भविष्य में कोई कनेक्शन करने की कोशिश है?

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त: मान्यवर, जैसे ही हमको बम्बई शहर से प्राप्त हुआ था, हमने उनको गैस कमिट कर दी थी, हमने कहा कि हम गैस देंगे। बम्बई शहर की समस्या यह है कि पुरानी गैस पाइप लाइन है। तो उन्होंने गैस अथॉरिटी आफ इंडिया को उसकी फीजिबिलिटी रिपोर्ट बनाने को कहा है.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, the ball is in Maharashtra's court.

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त: ...वह बन रही है। जैसे ही वह इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर तैयार हो जायेगा हम दे देंगे..... (व्यवधान) और दूसरा यह है कि थोड़ा बहुत फ्लेयर, टैक्निकल फ्लेयर तो निश्चित रूप से होता है लेकिन 42 परसेंट से हम 29 परसेंट पर ले आये हैं। फिर गैस के बारे में बहुत सारे प्रश्न हैं वे धीरे धीरे ही जायेंगे।

श्री सभापति: आप इनका जवाब पहले ही दे चुके थे। इसलिए मैंने इनको रोका था। Yes, Mr. Aladi Aruna.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA Alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, natural gas for cooking purposes has been stopped for the past few months to the new applicants. I would like to know the policy of the Government in this regard and when the Government is going to relax its present policy and entertain new applicants.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: No ban was actually put, Sir. But, unfortunately, there was some labour trouble for some time and the ban has been removed and gradually we are releasing.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA Alias V. ARUNACHALAM: But you are not entertaining new applicants.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: The backlog of applications is there and that is being cleared. But, fortunately, in the South, the backlog is very small and we are entertaining.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mrs. Satya Bahin.

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन: क्या दिल्ली में भी एल. पी. जी. गैस पाइप से सप्लाई करने का कोई प्रस्ताव है?

श्री ब्रह्मदत्त: इस समय तो नहीं है, जब बहुत सारी, प्रचुर मात्रा में उपलब्ध हो जायेगी तब यह सवाल आयेगा।

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, I have a point of order to make. I have given my name for this question I have raised my hand. But I have not been called. What is this, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is very clear and you also know it. I want to make it very clear that it is for me to choose whom to call for supplementaries. It does not depend on who raises his hands....(Interruptions).

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: You please do us justice, Sir. I do not challenge you. But you should do us justice....(Interruptions).....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am doing justice. I am giving chances to both the Opposition and the ruling party sides.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: My name is there and I have been raising my hand. When my name is there, I do not know why I have not been called....(Interruptions).....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. Now, Question No. 243.

श्री पवन कुमार बांसल: अगर लिखकर देना है तो वह दे देंगे आप जैसे कहेंगे वैसे कर लेंगे.....(व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति: जब हम ठीक समझेंगे तब देंगे। इससे कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता है...(व्यवधान)

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव: ठीक समझने का क्या क्राइटेरिया है....(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is for the Chair to decide. There is a very well-known practice of 'catching the Chair's eye' in May's Parliamentary Practice....(Interruptions)....

श्री विठ्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव: कभी तो हमारी तरफ आंख कर दीजिए। कभी तो आंख मारते जाइये। यह क्या है। हम बिल्कुल अट्रैक्टिव नहीं हैं ऐसा लग रहा है...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Of those whom I have called, whom should I have not called?.....(Interruptions)... Be reasonable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You tell me, are they in any way unimportant?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: No, Sir,... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are they in any way irrelevant?.....(Interruptions)...

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Not at all, Sir....(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called from your party also, people from your party also. Please remember....(Interruptions)....

श्री पवन कुमार बांसल: हमें भी दे दिया कीजिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is for me to decide. May I say one thing? Those who create trouble, even if they catch my eyes, I cannot call....(Interruptions)...

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: We are not creating any trouble, Sir. How do you say like that?.../Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called some members. Now, whom should I have left? whom should I have not called? Whom should I leave? You tell me...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: It is entirely our prerogative and it is entirely your right, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I did not call Appaiah Kulkarni who is usually angry. But today he is quiet.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, you have revoked him now...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, it is our prerogative and I do not dispute it. I agree with it and, as a disciplined member, I sit down...*(Interruptions)*.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I quoted you as an example for being a disciplined Member. You raised your hand and I did not call you. Question no. 242.

*242. [The questioners (Shri N. E. Alaram and Shri Gurudas Das Gupta) were absent. For answer vide column 133 infra]

Disposal of Postal Bags in Calcutta

*243. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several thousand postal bags were stolen from the Postal Stock Depot, Calcutta or disposed of by the departmental heads in 1975;

b) if so, what are the details thereof;

c) what action has been taken to stop such activities of the departmental staff and the action taken against those who disposed of the unserviceable bags worth Rs. 5.4 lakh between the period from April, 1975 to August, 1977?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Certain irregularities were found in 1985 in disposal of a large number of unserviceable bags. However, no theft could be established.

(b) Some of the irregularities in the disposal of unserviceable bags were:

(1) Accounts were not maintained properly.

(2) Unserviceable bags had been sold by weight and not by count.

(3) Bag balances were not being verified regularly as prescribed.

(4) Indenting of bags was not taken up through proper channel.

(5) No records pertaining to old unserviceable bags was available prior to May, 1979.

(c) Suitable instructions have been issued to monitor the bag accounting. Disciplinary proceedings against the erring officials have been ordered for the lapses cited at (b) above. The Department does not have detailed information regarding disposal of unserviceable bags between April, 1975 to August, 1977.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, pilferage seems to have become a normal but necessary activity of the postal staff. He has cited a number of irregularities. I call these irregularities as pilferages—another name for stealing. May I know from him, Sir, what specific action has been taken against those who indulge in such malpractice?

Then, in reply to part (c) of the main question he has stated that he has no information. It is a very old case. What prevented him from getting the information and telling us in the House?

संचार मंत्री (श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह): मान्यवर, जैसा कि कहा गया है कि अनियमिततायें नहीं हैं, बल्कि यह चोरी है। जब तक जांच चल रही है और जांच