

and it is being routed through the industry because in any system of administered prices, the only way it could be administered is at the producers' end and not at the consumers' end. It should be remembered here that there are nearly 2 lakh retail outlets of fertilizers and then it would be very difficult for the Government to administer the subsidy through these retail outlets so it has to be administered at the producers' end.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN; Madam, it is a question of technology and knowhow in the field of chemical fertilizer. Some fertilizer units in the country, that is, one at Guhati in Assam, the other at Haldia in Bengal, are in a very difficult situation. Actually, the Government has stopped further work in these fertilizers units. It is reported that these fertilizer units are going to be closed down. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether these fertilizer units are suffering from any problem of technology and if so, from where and when this technology was brought in these fertilizer units and whether the Government is going to effect any change in the technology and when the Government wants to start further work in these fertilizer units like Haldia and Barauni.

SHRI R. PRABHU; Madam, the unit at Haldia was mechanically complete in 1979 but still it is not under production. The Government is really worried about this and has therefore identified foreign consultants to go into the working of this unit and see what is required to see that this unit comes to production. As I mentioned before, that report is awaited. Probably we will get the report in two-three months and then the Government will be in a position to take a decision on how much to invest and what to do with the unit.

As far as the Namrup unit in Assam and the Barauni unit in Bihar are concerned, the foreign consultants have given a report about the working of the units. The Government is

considering how to revamp these units to see that their capacity utilization of these units is increased.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I would like to go back to the Sindri fertilizer factory. The hon. Minister did not give a clear reply. What are we to understand? Have they finally decided to close down the fertilizer factory? What will happen to the labour? What happens to the city which depends for its life on this fertilizer factory? Are we to understand that the Government have some proposal to start a new factory or will they leave the labour and the city to be completely ruined?

SHRI R. PRABHU: Madam, I think there is a little confusion about the Sindri factory. There are many units in Sindri. There is a unit, the Sindri Rationalisation Plant, which is being closed down. But there is another unit, the Sindri Modernization Plant. It is being run and there is no proposal to close this plant. The workers who are identified as surplus in the Sindri Rationalisation Plant have been absorbed in the Sindri Modernization Plant.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Not all of them.

SHRI R. PRABHU; Most of them. And to the ones who are identified as surplus a voluntary retirement scheme has been offered. We have to see whether they accept this scheme is no proposal to retrench any labour there.

*285. [The questioner (Shrimati Ratan Kumari) was absent. For answer, vide c'l. 33-34 infra]

Setting up of an alumina plant at Vishakhapatnam

*286. SHRI SATYANARAYANA DRONAMRAJU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for

the construction of an alumina plant at Krishna Devi Peta at Vishakhapatnam;

(b) if so, what are the detail thereof; and

(c) what is the present stage of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL, FOTEDAR):- (a) At present there is no proposal for- construction of an alumina plant at Krishna Devi Peta at Vishakhapatnam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI SATYANARAYANA DRO-NAMRAJU; Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has received reports from the expert committee for the setting up of an alumina plant in Krishna Devi Peta. If so, what are the details of the report? What action has been taken by the Government?

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: I have said in my written reply, to the hon. Member that there is no proposal to set up any alumina plant in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Why? Why not? .

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Listen to me. I have not completed my answer. Don't be impatient. Of course in the past, there was a proposal from the Soviet Union to have an alumina plant in Andhra Pradesh because bauxite deposits in the eastern sector are very large. At that time, the Government had decided to have both alumina and aluminium plants in Orissa. The feasibility report from the Soviet Union was received at that time. But because of constraints of funds, it could not be taken up at that time. Now, negotiations are going on how to have a bauxite mine opened in Andhra with the Soviet assistance. I would not like to give the details, at this stage. The Indo-

Soviet working group is discussing all the details in this regard. At this stage, it will be, I will say, premature to say anything about this.

DR. YALAMANCHILI SIVAJI; Madam Deputy Chairman, even during the early 70s it was reported that the Soviet Union preferred Vishakhapatnam rather than Orissa. The hon. Minister's explanation is not satisfactory as to why the plant was diverted from Vishakhapatnam- to Orissa. The hon. Minister may please clarify.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: This thing happened in the late 70s. I need not comment upon it. Expert Committee, I am told decided at that time that it would be worthwhile to have it in Orissa.

DR. YALAMANCHILI SIVAJI: It was only in early 70s, not late 70s.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA.- Madam, may I add Just one line? It is a later development that you are changing from alumina to bauxite and the question of Soviet help is a recent one. It came out during the recent negotiations. It is not the old decision. And do you really need Soviet help for a bauxite mine?

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Of course, we do not require the Soviet help for the bauxite mine. But we require a market, an international market, an export market for bauxite. Bauxite deposits are there in large quantities. If they pay for it, and develop the mine an export oriented they will purchase the bauxite. We have enough bauxite. We have enough alumina. We have become not only self-sufficient but we are becoming surplus during the current year, both in alumina as well as in aluminium. The honourable Member must be aware that we require more of energy for alumina as well as aluminium. There is, of course, shortage in Andhra Pradesh and they are not able to provide power/energy.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Temporary.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: How can they provide for it? So we require Soviet technology for developing this. That is why I say it would be premature to say at this stage what the constraint is and what the issues involved are for the working group. As soon as something is finalised, I will certainly inform the House.

आलू का पर्याप्त मूल्य

*287. श्री सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी : †

श्री रशीद मसूद :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इस वर्ष अकेले उत्तर प्रदेश में लगभग 60 लाख मीटरी टन आलू का उत्पादन होने की संभावना है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार ने यह सुनिश्चित करने हेतु कि किसानों को उनकी फसल का उचित मूल्य मिले कोई व्यवस्था की है ; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इस संबंध में और क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री श्याम लाल यादव) : (क) 1986-87 के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश में 57 लाख मीटरी टन आलू का उत्पादन हुआ। यद्यपि आलू के उत्पादन के पक्के आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं, फिर भी उत्तर प्रदेश में चालू वर्ष में आलू का अनुमानित उत्पादन पिछले वर्ष के उत्पादन के मुकाबले बेहतर है।

(ख) और (ग) केन्द्र सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सरकार की पहल पर चालू मौसम के दौरान बाजार हस्तक्षेप योजना शुरू की है, जिसके अंतर्गत आलू की सफेद किस्म (औसत अच्छी किस्म)

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी द्वारा पूछा गया।

का मूल्य 70 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल और लाल किस्म का मूल्य 60 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल निर्धारित किया है ताकि किसानों को आलू का उचित मूल्य दिलाया जा सके।

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: This answer is extremely evasive and I regret to say as a Member of Parliament representing UP, that the stepmotherly treatment given to the farmers of UP by this Government is unbelievable considering that it is the biggest State of the country and there is a major farmer's movement in UP. Because of this I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether there are any concrete proposals to help these farmers who have produced so much. Unfortunately the farmers have produced well and they seem to suffer for it. This seems to be the situation under this Government. So I would like to know whether in terms of providing loan, for cold storage in terms of transport, the Government has any concrete programme. There is a tremendous surplus and the farmers of UP have complained what they are to do with this huge potato crop. They may not even bring it out of the earth if this is the lackadaisical attitude of the Government.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: I think the honourable Member is totally mistaken in his information regarding the potato growers and the facilities that have been provided by the Government. It was at the instance of the State Government of UP that this scheme of Market Intervention is introduced in the State of UP and the farmers have always been offered this facility. This year we decided to fix a ceiling of 60,000 MT to be purchased by NAFED and by the State agency. And we went into the market but the total purchase that was offered by the farmers was only 5,074 MT. In the market itself the market prices are quite good. The farmers are selling very well. There is no problem this year, no glut in the market.