

I beg to submit, it is a Utopian thing. If the demand is fixed at a particular level, I can give the period by which we will be self-sufficient. But demand is increasing and as I have already submitted, oil cannot be manufactured in a factory. It has to be explored, it has to be exploited. Infrastructure has to be laid. I want to assure the hon. Member that we are taking all steps in this direction. We were advised that we should slow down our exploratory efforts because oil prices have fallen down, but we did not take to that line. We continued our own efforts with other international companies which I have already submitted by increasing the refining capacity and we have been lucky to strike oil and gas in various parts of the country—east, west, north and south—and we are making efforts. But we will have to lay very huge infrastructure to utilise that. The time will come and we will do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 123. Shri Ganeshwar Kusum.

lb Valley Thermal Power plant

*123. SHRI GANESHWAR KUSUM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a coal-based thermal power plant in the lb Valley in Sambalpur district. Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in implementing the above proposal; and

(c) what steps are being taken to expedite the establishment of the above thermal power plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Planning Commission have, in April, accepted the feasibility of the lb Valley Thermal Power Project (4x210 MW) in Orissa and its inclusion in the State's

Seventh Plan. Preliminary works relating to land acquisition, township approach roads, development of water supply and telecommunications etc. are in progress. The Orissa Power Generation Corporation have placed a letter of intent on M/s, BHEL for turn-key execution of the project which is expected to be commissioned in the English Plan.

Contracts awarded to Indian and Foreign Companies by ONGC

*124. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: 't
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-
DHURY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 18th October, 1987 to the effect that a number of Indian and Foreign companies' representatives, stationed at Dehra Dun, Bombay and Delhi bribe their way into getting fat orders for their employers and on regular basis and they also entertain and pie-sent costly gifts to senior ONGC officials;

(b) if so, whether any investigations have been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the findings thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Government has seen the news item.

(b) and (c) The insinuations made in the news item are rather general and vague; and as such do not warrant any investigation. However, ONGC's rules and procedures are devised to prevent malpractices.

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : सभापति जी, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि जिस प्रकार के परिपत्र प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रालय के सौदों के बारे में है कि कोई बिचौलिया नहीं होना चाहिए वैसे कोई परिपत्र पब्लिक अंडरटैकिंग के

बारों में है ? ओ. एन. जी. सी. के बारे में भी है ? अगर है तो उसका सार क्या है और उसके क्रियान्वयन के लिए ओ. एन. जी. सी. के सन्दर्भ में क्या कुछ किया गया है ? आपका कहना सही है कि यह रिपोर्ट जो है वह कुछ बेंग सी है लेकिन उसमें असंलियत भी दीखती है सिवाय इसके कि पत्रकार डिफें-मेशन से बचने के लिए नाम नहीं ले रहा है । मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि इस मामले में सावधानी क्या बरती गयी है ? सरकार की तरफ से कोई एंसा है कि इस प्रकार का विदेशी बिचौलिया जो ओ. एन. जी. सी. के अफसरों का ब्राइव आदि देकर अपना काम नहीं करवा सके ?

श्री बृहम वत्त : इस सम्बन्ध में जो प्रक्रिया हमने अपनायी है उसमें किसी बिचौलिया का बहुत ज्यादा महत्व नहीं रहता ।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : थोड़ा तो महत्व है ।

श्री बृहम वत्त : मैं 100 फीसदी की बात कभी नहीं कह सकता, दावा नहीं कर सकता ।

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : बाकी 10-15 फीसदी जो है उसकी जानकारी दे दें ।

श्री बृहम वत्त : 10-15 फीसदी तो नहीं आधा फीसदी मानता हूं । पहले यह है कि हम जिस वक्त खरीददारी के लिए सब काम करते हैं, टेंडर देते हैं आमतौर ग्लोबल टेंडर देते हैं । विश्व में एडवर्टाइजिंग वगैरह करते हैं । उसके लिए जो अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय नियम हैं उसके आधार पर करते हैं । हो सकता है कोई कम्पनी किसी को लिखे कि मेरे टेंडर के कागजात खरीद लो । उसको हम नहीं बुलाते । लेकिन टेंडर खोलने का जब डिजीजन लेते हैं, तकनीकी डिजीजन लेते हैं या वित्तीय डिजीजन लेते हैं उसमें किसी बिचौलिये को हम नहीं बुलाते हैं । सीधी बात करते हैं । इसको ठीक करने के लिए विश्व बैंक की जो गाइडलाइन्स हैं या अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय आचार संहिता है उसके मूताबिक विश्व में हम टेंडर देते हैं । फिर हम उनसे दो तरह के टेंडर मांगते प्राइस का होता है और तीसरा एक और तरीका है कि क्या हमको कोई वित्तीय सहायता देने वाला है ? तो पहले तो हम तकनीकी साइड देखेंगे हैं, जब वह ठीक निकलती है तो

उन्हीं टेंडर को हम खोलते हैं जो तकनीकी दृष्टि से ठीक होते हैं । फिर हम वित्तीय देखते हैं, इनमें वित्तीय भार क्या पड़ेगा । तीसरा, फिर यह भी विचार करते हैं कि हमको किस तरह से इसका भुगतान करना है, सब करना है । इसके इतने स्तर हैं कि तीन-चार स्तरों पर इस पर विचार होता है और अगर एक सरकार में कोई आदमी कुछ खराबी करने की कोशिश करे तो दूसरे स्तर पर ठीक हो जाती है, या तीसरे स्तर में ठीक हो जाती है । उसमें मैं नहीं समझता कि प्रभावित हो सकती है प्रक्रिया । जो पूरे स्तर इसके हैं, जब कभी ज्यादा मौका मिलेगा, पूरा समझा दूंगा । पहले वहां विचार होता है ओ. एन. जी. सी. में, फिर तकनीकी कमिटी में होता है, फिर मंत्रालय में होता है, फिर वित्त मंत्रालय में होता है, कस्टोडियन मंत्रालय में होता है और तीनों दृष्टिकोण से विचार करते हैं—तकनीकी दृष्टि से, वित्तीय दृष्टिकोण में और इसके अलावा जो हमको उसकी वित्तीय सहायता या ऋण या भुगतान की क्या व्यवस्था है तथा उसमें कौन सी लाभदायक है । यह मेरी राय में और भी कंपनी में होता है, हमारी भी कंपनी में होता है ।

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने उत्तर में कहा कि रूल्स एण्ड प्रोसीजर्स रिवाइज किए गए हैं, जो मेल-प्रैक्टिस रोक सके, तो क्या रूल्स एण्ड प्रोसीजर्स हैं और जिस परिपत्र के बारे में मैंने पहले पूछा था, क्या मंत्री महोदय उस परिपत्र की एक कापी सबन के पटल पर रखने को तैयार हैं, जिससे हम देख सकें कि वास्तव में आपने क्या सावधानी बरती है ?

श्री बृहम वत्त : मान्यवर, मैं सब बता देता हूं और यह सूचना आडवाणी जी लिखित रूप में चाहेंगे तो वह मैं पूरी भेज दूंगा । पहला, जैसा मैंने बताया ग्लोबल टेंडर में सब लोगों को जब बुलाते हैं वार्तालाप के लिए तो पहले तकनीक वार्तालाप के लिए बुलाते हैं, वे सब जो टेंडर देने वाले लोग होते हैं, उनकी मौजूदगी में सब होता है, उनसे जो पूछना होता है बात, वह होती है और उनसे जो वार्तालाप होता है, उसका रिकार्ड भी रखा जाता है । फिर उनके जो टेंडर होते हैं, उनकी हम वित्तीय कीमतों को ऊपर उसका मूल्यांकन करते हैं, उसका परा

रिपोर्ट रखा जाता है, सारी बात खुली होती है। जिन चीजों में हमारी विदेशी मुद्रा है, जो 2 करोड़ से ज्यादा जाती है, वह एक कमिटी के सामने जाती है ओ.एन.जी.सी. के अलावा, उसकी छानबीन होती है और बाद में पेट्रोलियम मंत्रालय और वित्त मंत्रालय उसकी छानबीन करता है। यह तमाम जो व्यवहार है, मैं संक्षेप में बता रहा हूँ और अगर चाहेंगे तो मैं इसकी पूरी रिपोर्ट आडवाणी जी को भेज दूंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mrs. Renuka Chowdhury.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I would like you to bear with me and have some patience because I want to point out the background regarding this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please make it short.

SHRI MATIRENUKA CHOWDHURY: Yes. Sir. But you have given him so much time to reply. If you give me enough time, it makes things easier. Please give me time to put my questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then take two minutes.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: All right. Sir. Sir, development of energy resources has been given due emphasis and rightly so in the national plans. The percentage of outlay in the energy sector has increased from 10 in the Second Plan to 30.5 in the Seventh Plan. This is a phenomenal gap, a phenomenal increase. Taking into consideration these parameters, I have reliably been given to understand that some of the senior ONGC officers, after their retirement, join some private companies whose interests are related to the ONGC with huge financial interests involved and they obtain information from other interested parties in respect of contracts and orders to become competitive and obtain the final contracts. This is where the loophole, the major loophole, is existing. As it is, it may not have occurred to the Ministry, Sir. But this is a very plausible loophole from where the problem starts. It is also learnt only who are in the know of

the ONGC affairs in an intimate manner, particularly the financial procedures and the attitudes of the dealing personnel, are involved in this murky business of pre-empting the situation and obtain contracts from them. The ONGC has given instructions to the existing staff not to attend functions hosted by ex-employees, except in special circumstances. There have been violations by Government officials of these instructions. Despite strict instructions, retired ONGC individuals are holding public functions and obtaining information for private firms, sometimes even after resigning from the Commission, and....

SHRI VASANT SATHE: What is your question?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The Minister is very anxious to hear the questions. I want to know whether any such leakages or irregularities have been discovered by the ONGC. If so, what are the details that are available on record? This is (a). Then

MR. CHAIRMAN: That completes your question. It has been quite long.

SHRIMATI RENUKACHOWDHURY: (b) Have these findings brought them to any conclusions, (c) Have they taken any action in this regard? If no, what are the reasons thereof? Thank you Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for completing.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, the ONGC terms and conditions of appointment and service regulations prohibit employment of all its retired employees in any company or firm with which the Commission has or is likely to have business relations, within two years of retirement, without prior approval of the Commission. Any ex-employee violating this is treated as a *persona non grata*. Serving employees are prohibited from having any formal or informal contact with him or dealing with him. The Commission are under instructions to notify to their officers if any ex employee contacts them for obtaining any official information. They are also under instructions not to accept invitation, except with the express permission of their controlling officers. I fail to understand

that when we invite global tenders and give all the specifications and detailed information in the tender documents and that is all discussed in the presence of all the bidders, what the vital information is that can be leaked. I do not understand that. We have taken full precautions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question put by her is whether you will ban employment.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: I have already said this. If we go beyond that, perhaps the court may interfere.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: The question relates to obtaining contracts for supply. But the main problem is that we are spending thousands and thousands of crores of rupees worth foreign exchange, in spite of the fact that we are producing sufficient crude. May I inform the hon. Minister that our crude is better than the world market crude but our refineries are not fit to refine our crude in full and they are only meant to refine outside crude? That may be one reason. Second, the main suspicion arises when world market falls but the prices increase in this country. That is, there is no valid reason and suspicion will increase when you are taking supplies from outside and you are not mending your own refineries to refine your crude in full. How do the prices in India increase at a time when the world market falls?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, the price has risen from 8 dollars a barrel to 10 dollars a barrel during the last year. But we have not increased the prices of oil products. I have already said that we are not considering any proposal to increase the prices. I agree with the hon. Member about the qualitative improvement in the existing refineries. We are installing the latest technological equipment in the new refineries which we are going to set up in Karnal and Bangalore. They will be based on the hydrocracker and petrochemical technology. We cannot do very much about the very old refineries. We are trying to incorporate whatever improvement we can make in the old refine- J rises. I would beg to differ on one point.

Our crude is quite all right, but it is inferior in lubricant content which is a very important part of the crude. The crude's high lubricant content has to be imported.

SHRI LAKSHMI KANT JHA: Sir, I differ from my good friend Mr. Advani's assumptions on which the question is framed. First of all, there are press reports making vague allegations that there is corruption. We take serious notice of them in this House and we ask the Minister what he is doing to investigate the matter. I want to ask whether we should not bear in mind the morale of the officers involved when vague, unsubstantiated and uncorroborated allegations are made and no examples are cited. Then we, in this House, say that because of these reports, we should look into the matter. I think we should look into the corruption problem through our agencies such as Intelligence Bureau, C. B. I, and others. We cannot afford to ignore the press reports. But we should not let our officers feel that any report of this kind is investigated. Will the Minister assure us that along with measures to investigate complaints which are genuine or *bona fide* or where doubts arise, something will be done to maintain the morale of the officers who are engaged in these things?

Secondly, there is the question about middlemen. If you just say that no middlemen should be there, you will create a black market of middlemen. The middlemen will operate, but they will not admit to be such. It might be a principle that you will negotiate only with the Principals. But if the Principal is somewhere in France or Japan, then it must have a representative here to answer day-to-day questions and maintain a channel of communication. If you ignore the identity of such representatives, you will create a surreptitious channel. It is better to let these things come into open. I would like to know how the Minister reacts.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: The first part of the hon. Member's question is a suggestion. My task is a delicate one. On the one hand, I have to keep the morale of the officers high. I assure the hon. Members that no officer will be allowed to feel demoralised. But, simultaneously, when specific complaints about

come to my notice, I will enquire into them. I shall protect the honest officers. I will not protect any corrupt officer, but, at the same time, I will not allow the general morale to go down. What happens is this. Suppose somebody loses a tender, then he spreads all sorts of stories. Letters are sent to me. We examine those things thoroughly.

Secondly, we permit the purchase of tender documents by anybody. Anybody can come and purchase on behalf of somebody else. When we discuss the price bid only the authorised representative of that company is allowed. That is an international practice. They must have some representative. We do not take others into confidence. We do not allow any discussion with anybody who is not an authorised representative.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मान्यवर, माननीय मंत्री जी बताने की कृपा करें कि पिछले 2 सालों के अंदर करीदारी के संबंध में अनुमानतः कितनी शिकायतें श्री एन. जी. सी. को प्राप्त हुईं और इस संबंध में क्या-क्या कार्यवाही की गयी?

श्री कृष्ण दत्त : इसके लिए तो मुझे सूचना एकत्रित करनी पड़ेगी। कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं और क्या एक्शन हुआ, इस समय सूचना मेरे पास उपलब्ध नहीं है मैं माननीय सदस्य को भेज दूंगा।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : जो मुझे प्रश्न है इसी से संबंधित है। उन्हें इतनी तो जानकारी होनी चाहिए कि कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुईं।

Sales turn-over of Ascorbic Acid

*125. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: -!

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ascorbic Acid has been price-decontrolled;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the main criterion for exclusion of drugs

from price control are (i) -that production structure should be competitive and (ii) the annual sales turn-over should be less than rupees fifty lakhs;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the annual sales turn-over of this drug is more than rupees fifty lakhs and this drug is a monopoly production;

(d) what was the sales turn-over of \ Ascorbic Acid during the year, 1986;

(e) what are the names of producers of this drug alongwith their licensed and installed capacity and production during the last three years, year-wise; and

(f) on what grounds Ascorbic Acid has been removed from the list of price controlled drugs ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO); (a) to (f). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

Yes, Sir.

1b) The various criteria for exclusion of drugs from the list of Category-II d for price control are given in the Kelkar Committee Report, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) Ascorbic Acid/Sodium Ascorbate is being produced by two companies only. Sales turnover of bulk drugs/formulations is not monitored.

(e) The required details, to the extent available, are given in the Annexure (See below).

(f) The Kelkar Committee had recommended that all Vitamins when used in combinations in formulations should come under Category-II of price control. Hence all vitamins as bulk drugs including Ascorbic Acid have been exempted from price control.

actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Ratnakar Pandey.