

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

Shifting of Rewas Fertilizer Unit

*1. SHRI BHAGWAN DIN:†
SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV;
SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rewas Fertilizer Unit is likely to be shifted to Tarapur; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what will be the escalation in cost due to shifting and the target date for commissioning it?

पेट्रोलियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय से राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र): (क) और (ख) अपेक्षित सूचना को दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण पत्र सभापटल पर प्रस्तुत है।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) बम्बई हाई से प्राप्त संबद्ध गैस पर आधारित दो बड़े आकार के उर्वरक कारखानों को विभिन्न स्थानों पर स्थापित करने से वातावरण पर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव की जांच करने के लिये एन०सी० ई० पी०सी० के तत्वावधान में स्थापित कार्यदल ने प्रायोजना को मान्डवा चेनेरी और ऊसर (सभी दक्षिण बम्बई में स्थित) में न लगाये जाने की सलाह दी है और सर्वसम्मति से यह सिफारिश की है कि इस प्रायोजना को महाराष्ट्र में तारापुर नामक स्थान पर स्थापित किया जाना चाहिए। कार्यदल की सिफारिश को सरकार द्वारा मान लिया गया है। संशोधित अनुमान और प्रायोजना को चालू करने के लिये निर्धारित समय के बारे में विचार किया जा रहा है।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Task force set up under the auspices of the NCEPC to investigate into the environmental impact on different sites of locating the two large sized fertilizer projects based on associate gas from Bombay High has advised against the location of the project at Mandwa, Cheneri and Usar (all of them being South of Bombay city) and has unanimously recommended the location of the project at Tarapur in Maharashtra State. The recommendation of the Task Force has been accepted by Government. The revised estimate and the time of commissioning of the project are being worked out.]

श्री श्याम लाल यादव : विवरण देखने से जो जानकारी मिली है उसी आधार पर मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ये जो दो बड़े आकार के उर्वरक कारखाने स्थापित होंगे इनको स्थापित करते समय क्या इस बात पर विचार नहीं करेंगे कि ये बड़े आकार के कारखाने किसी दूसरे राज्य में या गुजरात में स्थापित हो सकते हैं या नहीं, इस बात को देखते हुए कि अब कारखाने यहाँ न हो करके नये स्थान पर स्थापित किये जायेंगे ? दूसरे यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसका जो कुल व्यय है कितना होगा और क्षमता की स्थिति क्या है और क्षमता किस प्रकार से निर्धारित करेंगे और इसमें कितना समय लगेगा ? मैंने यह इसलिये पूछा है क्योंकि इसका जिक्र विवरण में नहीं दिया है।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : सभापति जी, केवल सात दिन पहले प्रदूषण कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आई है और इस पर अभी सरकार विचार

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhagwan Din.

†[] English translation.

कर रही है। जो पहले ब्यौरा तैयार किया गया था उसके मुकाबले में नई जगह कारखाने ले जाने में क्या ज्यादा खर्चा पड़ेगा। अभी चूँकि सरकार के विचाराधीन मामला है और अंतिम निर्णय नहीं हो सका है इसलिये कुछ कह पाना मुश्किल है। इसी तरह से बड़े आकार के दो कारखाने गुजरात में भी खोलने का निर्णय हुआ है।

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Sir, since the location has now been shifted to Tarapur, I would like to know what proposals there are before the Government for taking the Bombay High gas to the new site.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : मैंने पहले बताया है कि यह मामला सरकार के विचाराधीन है लेकिन जो पाइपलाइन आने वाली है उसे तारापुर तक ले जाने में ज्यादा खर्चा है क संभावना यह भी है कि वह पाइपलाइन गुजरात में तारापुर होकर जायेगी, इसलिये कोई विशेष खर्च का खतरा नहीं है।

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Sir, the honourable Minister has said that the whole matter is under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Not the whole matter.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Whatever may be the matter, it is under the consideration of the Government. He has stated that the recommendation with regard to Tarapur has been accepted.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Yes.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: That has been accepted. So, I would like to know from him whether the Maharashtra Government's views were received by the Government of India and whether the views of Maharashtra Pollution Board were also ascertained. Then, the second thing is this: As my colleague, Shri Vaishampayan, has pointed out, I

would like to know whether it is a fact that the site at Tarapur will involve an additional expenditure of Rs. 240 crores also whilst the site at Usar, which is the next best and which was supposed to be one of the best sites, will cost comparatively less. I would also like to know whether many political parties have unnecessarily brought in the question of environment and other irrelevant matters and have tried to divert the location of this big fertilizer plant from Maharashtra to some other State under one pretext or the other.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Sir, I should repudiate with all the power at my command that there has been any consideration other than the consideration of a technological and scientific nature in determining the site for the location of these fertilizer plants. That is one thing. The second thing is that the site at Tarapur will not cost Rs. 240 crores, not even Rs. 200 crores, not even Rs. 100 crores. But the exact amount of additional expenditure would be known in a couple of days and that is being worked out and it will not be very high. Then, the third thing is that the site at Usar has been rejected by a Working Group constituted by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, in which the NEERI, that is, the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, was involved and also a Committee which was presided over by an expert on chemical pollution of the Atomic Energy Commission. Now, such was the level of the Committee which rejected Usar for the same reason as that of the Mandwa Rewas. Finally, the State Government has been kept informed of the developments and it is very wrong to say that we are taking out or trying to take out the fertilizer plants, these two fertilizer plants, outside Maharashtra in any manner. Tarapur or the site at which they are being located is very much in Maharashtra. Finally, what I would like to say is that the whole question has got jumbled up

because, initially, in 1975, the amount of the gas available from Bombay High was only enough for feeding the Trombay Plant from the 1st, 2nd and the 5th Plant and the LPG was enough only to feed the Bombay city and the nearby areas.

Also, the chemical part of it will be extracted and would be available for use in that particular area. Subsequent discoveries of other fields have added on to the additional capacity, but this additional capacity will be used now for these two new fertiliser plants. So far as the Gujarat State allocations are concerned, as my colleague has already said the other two plants are coming up, because we have been lucky enough in finding very good gas, rich gas, in the Tapti and South Tapti areas.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: My specific question was whether the Government had received any memorandum or had discussion with State Government about this site. He said that the Maharashtra Government has been informed. That was not my specific question. He must say that he has not received it. Our experience of what happened to the aluminium plant has raised this apprehension of evil design of some one. There is great anxiety amongst the Maharashtra Members about the location.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: I want to do away with the anxiety of my most valued colleague of this House, Shri Kulkarni. Bitterness is a matter of past ages. It is only sweetness now that is restored for Maharashtra.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: What happened to the aluminium plant? Where has it gone?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: The Maharashtra Government has not sent us any memorandum. But the Maharashtra Government is interested that the fertilisers plant should be located within Maharashtra.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has not clearly indicated to the Secretary of the Ministry that they would not desire the plant to go to Tarapur but they would like it to go further south? Is it also not a fact that the capacity which was originally supposed to be 950 tonnes per day, which was recommended by all the officials and everyone concerned, was suddenly increased in 1975 because of certain plants which were sold by the Soviet Union and later cancelled by them and hence this decision was taken, without taking into consideration various technical and economic aspects?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Sir, the first point is that the Maharashtra Government is definitely for location of these plants in the south of Bombay. In fact, their pollution experts said that Rewas was the most ideal place, and it is their experts who fixed Rewas earlier, and the Water and Air Pollution Board of Maharashtra cleared the site. But subsequently the enlightened public opinion of Bombay, represented by my hon. friend also, and associated with him also, raised the question of Bombay which, unfortunately, has rounded 65 per cent of chemical industry of this country, and because of it we cannot create difficulty of any additional pollution; and any additional pollution would be dangerous. Moreover, what has really been found out subsequently is that the task force stated that if we locate it at Usar or at Mandva, the level of pollution even in these areas would become beyond tolerance. Therefore, it is totally on technological grounds . . . (Interruptions).

Secondly, it is not correct to say that this plant had 900 tonnes capacity and that in 1975 the size was changed to 1350 tonnes. These plants are going to be based on global tenders, and obviously these would be processed according to our requirements. Therefore, the question of bringing in Russia in any manner is absolutely incorrect.

Finally, Sir, I may say that the capacity of 1350 tonnes is now being accepted the world over as a perfect economic size and we are already producing fertilisers from 600 tonnes capacity and upwards. Therefore, we wanted to keep our capacity at 1350 tonnes.

श्री प्रेम मनोहर : माननीय मंत्री महोदय इस बात को जानते हैं कि श्री गांगुली की अध्यक्षता में भारत सरकार ने टेक्नीकल एक्सपर्ट की एक कमेटी बनाई थी। उन्होंने रेवास को प्लान्ट खोलने के लिए अपनी रिपोर्ट में परिफरेन्स दिया था और दूसरे स्थान पर उन्होंने तारापुर का सुझाव दिया था। आपने अभी जो सूचना दी है उसमें रेवास का उल्लेख नहीं है। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप तारापुर को ही क्यों चुन कर रहे हैं ?

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : सरकार ने जो प्रदूषण कमेटी बनाई थी डा० गांगुली की अध्यक्षता में, उसकी रिपोर्ट है कि रेवास में तकनीकी और आर्थिक दृष्टि से कुछ लाभ है और वहाँ जल प्रदूषण को भी कम किया जा सकता है लेकिन वायु प्रदूषण की समस्या वर्ष में कुछ महीनों तक गम्भीर हो सकती है। दूसरी, जो उस कमेटी ने रिकमन्डेशन दी है वह यह है कि वातावरण के प्रभाव की दृष्टि से तारापुर को स्वीकार किया जा सकता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

बिहार में आन्दोलन के कारण रेलवे सम्पत्ति को हुई क्षति

* 2. श्री श्याम लाल यादव :

श्री रामानन्द यादव :

श्री श्रीकान्त वर्मा :

क्या रेलमंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बिहार में, राज्य सरकार द्वारा पिछड़े वर्गों को राजकीय सेवाओं में 26

प्रतिशत आरक्षण प्रदान किए जाने के निर्णय के फलस्वरूप राज्य में होने वाले आन्दोलन के कारण 15 मार्च, 1978 तक रेलवे सम्पत्ति को कितनी क्षति पहुंची;

(ख) इसके लिए दोषी पाये गये व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है; और

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में रेलवे द्वारा क्या निवारक कदम उठाये गये हैं ?

† [Damage to railway property due to agitation in Bihar

*2. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:
SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damage caused to railway property in Bihar till the 15th March, 1978, as a result of the agitation which took place in the State following the State Government's decision to reserve 26 per cent posts in Government service for backward classes;

(b) the action taken against persons found guilty therefor; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by the railways in this regard?]

रेल मंत्री (प्र० मधु ढण्डवते) : (क) 15 मार्च, 1978 तक रेल सम्पत्ति को कोई क्षति नहीं पहुंची। रेल सम्पत्ति 17-3-78 से ही प्रदर्शनकारियों का निशाना बनी।

(ख) राज्य सरकार के अधीन काम कर रही सरकारी रेलवे पुलिस ने 17-3-1978 को और उसके पश्चात होने वाली घटनाओं के सम्बन्ध में बहुत से व्यक्तियों को गिरफ्तार किया है और भारतीय दंड संहिता और भारतीय रेल अधिनियम की विभिन्न धाराओं के अधीन उनके विरुद्ध मामले दर्ज किये हैं। इन मामलों की अभी जांच पड़ताल की जा रही है।