

**Adulteration in lubricating oils**

\*48. SHRI KALP NATH RAI:

SHRI JAGAN NATH

BHARDWAJ;†

SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM

KHAN;

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the widespread adulteration in lubricating oils during the last one year; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to prevent adulteration of lubricating oils?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND PETROLEUM (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) Lubricating oils are primarily sold through recognised distributors/dealers of the major oil companies and Government have not come across any serious complaint about the quality of lubricating oils sold through the marketing network including the retail outlets of the major oil companies. Government have, however, received certain reports regarding sale of spurious/off specification lubricating oils by private processors/marketers/petty jobbers and unauthorised dealers.

(b) Apart from initiating follow-up action on the measures suggested by an expert panel set up by the Government to look into the problem of adulteration/misuse of lubricants, Government have prescribed a scheme of discipline in regard to distribution of lubricants which is required to be

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagan Nath Bhardwaj.

implemented by all the major oil companies. Oil companies have been conducting surprise checks on their retail outlets/agents with a view to ensure that there are no malpractices in distribution of lubricants through their outlets. The oil companies have also been asked to increasingly take up direct sales to all the major consumers. A series of further measures have been contemplated with the objective of minimising the circulation of spurious lubricants in the markets. Some of the major steps in this direction are set out below:

(i) Government propose to make the use of the ISI mark mandatory for all manufacturers of automotive oils, industrial oils and greases. The details in this regard are being worked out in consultation with the ISI and other concerned organisations.

(ii) Stricter control would be exercised over allocation of feedstocks for the purpose of lube manufacture. The idea is to ensure proper accountal of feedstock releases as related to the output of the end-product.

(iii) The oil companies have been asked to eliminate intermediaries and prevent multiplication of agencies engaged in tube distribution so as not to weaken effective control by the oil companies over their operations.

(iv) Oil companies have been asked to launch a major publicity drive to bring about greater consumer awareness and involvement.

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ: Will the hon Minister please state whether any specific measures such as proper bottling, sealing, etc., have been taken or not?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Some minor steps have been taken. I may take the House into confidence and

say that from 1973 to 1976, the question came up before the Government a number of times and no final decision was taken by the outgoing Government. However, I am thankful to the hon. Members that the matter has been brought to my notice through this question. We are now trying to see in what direction we can move in order to eliminate all these possibilities of adulteration in lubricants and to supply the correct type of lubricants to the people.

AN. HON. MEMBER: The other Government took three years. How much time will you take?

श्री इब्राहीम कलानिया : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि जहाँ लुब्रीकेटिंग आयाल में मिलावट हो रही है वहाँ उसकी कीमतें भी बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ती जा रही हैं ? अगर यह सही है तो इस वक्त इसकी क्या कीमत है । क्या सरकार को इस बात की भी जानकारी है कि इस तरह के लुब्रीकेटिंग आयाल में मिलावट होने से मशीनरी खराब होती है और उससे राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति को काफी नुकसान होता है ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस पर एक्साइज ड्यूटी कितनी है ? क्या सरकार इस मिलावट को रोकने के लिए किसी ऐसी प्रक्रिया की जानकारी प्राप्त करेगी जिससे ग्राहक को यह आयाल देने से पहले यह पता चल सके कि इसमें मिलावट की गई है ? क्या इस प्रकार की कोई प्रक्रिया सरकार के विचाराधीन है ?

श्री हेमवती नन्दन बहुगुणा : मान्यवर, माननीय सदस्य ने कई सवाल एक साथ जोड़ दिए हैं । जहाँ तक एक्साइज ड्यूटी का सवाल है, इसका संबंध मूल प्रश्न से नहीं है क्योंकि यह मिलावट से संबंधित प्रश्न है । हमारे सामने साधारण सा सवाल यह है कि जितने भी लुब्रीकेन्ट्स हैं और जो मेजर सेक्टर में बनते हैं उनमें कोई गड़बड़ नहीं है क्योंकि जो उत्पादक हैं या जो इस कारोबार को करते हैं वे कुछ खास किस्म

के आयाल से संबंधित हैं । आप जानते हैं कि कई किस्म के लुब्रीकेन्ट्स होते हैं । इसलिए इनके बारे में कई प्रकार के स्टेप्स लेने चाहिए । उदाहरण के लिए रेलवेज के लिए दो टाइप के मैनुफैक्चर्स हैं । इसी प्रकार से इलेक्ट्रीसिटी बोर्ड का भी सवाल है । ये जो सारे आइल हैं, ये रिप्रोसेस हो सकते हैं और फिर इस्तेमाल भी हो सकते हैं । यह काम छोटे व्यापारियों के हाथ में है । वह उन्हें क. उल्टा गीधा बनाकर वापस कर देते हैं । आई० एस० आई० स्टैंडर्ड के फार्मोलेशन का फाइनल अभी तक नहीं हुआ है । इसके क्या स्टैंडर्ड होंगे, उन्हें इन प्रश्नों को तय करना है । हों यह भी तय करना होगा कि हमारा खुद की जो रिफाइनरी है उनमें जो लुब्रीकेन्ट्स, फीड स्टॉक्स और बेस स्टॉक्स बनते हैं उनका हम कैसे वितरण करें ताकि वह गलत किस्म के लोगों के हाथ में न पहुंच जाए । इस संबंध में बहुत सारे स्टेप्स लेने होंगे । मैं सदन को यह विश्वास दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि इस बारे में मैं इतना ही स्वयं चिन्तित हूँ जितना कि कोई भी माननीय सदस्य ।

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRA-BARTI: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister what are the important ingredients of this adulteration and how much is being used for adulterating lubricant oil? One hon. Member pointed out that edible oil is being used for adulteration purposes. Is it a fact that because of this edible oil being used for adulteration, its price is also going up?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: I cannot connect the whole gamut of price and price structure of various items but it is true that earlier because of the price differential some of these things were being done. The predecessor Government had tried to avoid this price differential but the basic question is how to control the marketing business, how to control the production business, and the Government have to take many steps before we can reach the end of the journey.