

RAJYA SABHA

*Tuesday, the 26th November, 1974/
5th Aagrahayana, 1896 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair,

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

†Protocol between India and Rumania for
the supply of fertilizers

*135. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA :

SHRI RAJ NARAIN :

SHRI B. N. MANDAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether any protocol has been signed with Rumania for the supply of fertilizers; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a)
and (b) The Minerals and Metals Trading
Corporation of India Ltd., signed two contracts with M/s. "Aezoexport", Rumanian Foreign Trade Enterprise, for import of one lakh tonnes and forty thousand tonnes of Calcium Ammonium Nitrate respectively from Rumania. Against the first contract, a quantity of 83,000 tonnes has already been shipped by Rumania. The balance quantity is in the process of shipment. The shipment against the second contract will be made during November, 1974 to January, 1975.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA : According to the information available, the protocol aims at a two-fold increase in the volume of the annual trade between India and Rumania and you have just stated that we will be getting chemical fertilisers from Rumania. I would like to know from the

hon. Minister whether we will be paying for the import of fertilisers in cash or in foreign exchange or whether it will be deferred payment and we will be supplying something from our country to Rumania.

SHRI V. P. SINGH : The trade with East European countries and the USSR is based on the balance of trade arrangement on a rupee payment basis and it is on these terms that it has been arranged

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA : Apart from the development of trade, may I know whether agreement has also been reached for economic co-operation in the field of petroleum, chemicals, power, energy, agriculture, water and land management and, if so, what are the details thereof?

SHRI V. P. SINGH : I would submit that it is a question which goes beyond the scope of the present question on fertilisers.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question is in connection with the protocol between India and Rumania and this is part of that. So, I put the question and it is not at all irrelevant. Further, it is not the Minister, but the Chairman who decides it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is all right. He suggested it to me.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : May I know whether, in this connection, the Government has assessed the internal production of fertilisers in our country and has come to a conclusion as to what are our requirements which should be met by way of imports? I should like to know whether the Government has explored the possibility of stepping up production in India and also running the existing fertiliser plants to capacity so that the import is kept to a low level.

SHRI V. P. SINGH : Yes, Sir. So far as increasing the production of fertilisers is concerned in the Fifth Five Year Plan five units are being put up in the

†Transferred from the 18th November, 1974.

public sector, one in the co-operative sector and also in the public sector there will be increased capacity. One of the second largest plants of Asia is going to be put up in the co-operative sector worth Rs. 144 crores of investment.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : Cultivators throughout the country grumble about the supply of fertilisers. It seems cultivators in the country are not happy about the supply of fertilisers. Also, we find that the policy of the Government is that it tries to leave it to the suppliers of foreign fertilisers.

My question to the hon. Minister is this whether this Government has got any policy of self-reliance or whether it has got any policy to decrease the supply from foreign countries for the purpose of achieving self-reliance and also whether it has resorted to the process of compost manure of which there is a large wastage in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It may not be possible for him to answer. The Agriculture Minister will reply.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : Sir, I asked whether this Government has got any policy to decrease the foreign imports for the purpose of improving the local production.

(No reply)

श्री चक्रपाणी शुक्ल : वर्तमान समय में फीर्टिलाइजर की कमी को देखते हुए, पहले जो निर्णय किया गया था करवा में एक कोल-बेसड फीर्टिलाइजर प्लांट इस्टीमेशन किया जाएगा और उसकी बहुत समय तक चर्चा थी, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि यह जो पब्लिक सेक्टर और कोऑपरेटिव सेक्टर में फीर्टिलाइजर प्लांट लगाने की बात है, क्या इससे संबंधित किसी निर्णय पर पहुँचने के लिए करवा पर विचार किया जा रहा है या नहीं ?

SHRI V. P. SINGH : We are concerned with the import and export of fertilisers and about Korba, I think the exact answer would be available from the concerned Ministry.

SHRI K. N. DHULAP : The hon. Minister stated in the House in reply to Shri Bhupesh Gupta's question that a certain number of fertiliser plants are likely to be started in the private and public sectors in the different States. In which States are these plants likely to be situated?

SHRI V. P. SINGH : Sir, again, location and all that would not be within the purview of our Ministry. What I mentioned was about the Fifth Five Year Plan and that is the provision and that is the general framework within which fertilizer plants will be set up. Location and all that have to be gone into in detail and besides, they have to be decided on merits, which is under the purview of another Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has no information.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Whenever we import fertilisers from the East European countries, there is the practice that those countries nominate an agent in India and a commission is paid by them to this agent. May I know whether it is a fact and he is aware of it and he has also made enquiries that particularly in the case of Rumania such a commission has been paid to a person in Delhi, which money has been used for espionage activities against this country?

SHRI V. P. SINGH : We have no such information about nefarious activities.

Import of Foreign Capital

*298. **SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :**
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to revise its policy regarding import of foreign capital for the exploitation of country's natural resources; and