

Prime Minister's award which we expect shortly. As regards Krishna I understand that the judgment will be given some time towards the end of this year. I quite agree with the hon. Member that these things should not be allowed to stand in the way of the development of the country. In the case of Godavari I hope that it would be possible for us to settle out of court so that we need not have to wait. There are quite a number of very good projects in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh areas of the Godavari basin and I am very unhappy that these projects which would have served the drought-hit areas are not being taken up.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What are you doing about it? That is the question.

DR. K. L. RAO: I only hope.....

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Don't hope. You have been hoping all along.

DR. K. L. RAO: that the Chief Ministers concerned would try and come to an understanding and we will be taking positive steps.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Lock them up in a room and ask them to come out with an agreement.

SHRI TRILOKI SINGH: The all-India average for increase in the facilities for irrigation seems to be 100 per cent during the last twenty-five years. May I know from the hon. Minister if he is aware of the fact that in the case of UP, which has got the largest number of rivers in India, the increase has not been more than 20 per cent during the last twenty-five years of the irrigated area?

DR. K. L. RAO: The percentage quoted by the hon. Member is not correct. Also, U.P. has got a very high water potential and it should be possible for us to provide a larger percentage of irrigation facilities than what we have done- At the time of independence, the percentage of irrigation in U.P. was 22 per cent. We

have now got about 40 per cent irrigation in U.P. In view of the fact that it has got a very high degree of water potential, much more than many other States, we are very anxious that it should be taken up at a higher level. I only hope that the completion of the Sharda and Gandak projects will be accelerated. These projects will push up the percentage of irrigation. We shall keep a vigil over the development of irrigation in U.P.

*269. [Transferred to the Uth March, 1973].

IDLE CAPACITY IN FERTILIZER PLANTS

*270. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH

MUSAFIR: SHRI J. S. TILAK: SHRI KRISHAN KANT: SHRI CHANDRA'SHEKHAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer plants in the country are working below capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to improve their working?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The overall capacity utilisation for the fertilizer industry during the first ten months of 1972-73 (i.e. for the period April 1972 to January 1973) was about 72 per cent. While some of the plants set up in recent years and on more modern processes and technology, like those at Kota, Baroda, Kanpur and Gorakhpur have shown

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurumukh Singh Musafir.

a very high degree of capacity utilization, a few other old and ageing plants like those at Sindri some sections of the Fertilizers and Chemicals (Tara-vencore) Ltd. at Alwaye and Varanasi have been suffering from a number of operational and other problems, which in turn affected their production efficiency. The production at Nan gal, which is capable of operating at full capacity (or even more) suffered a serious setback as a result of sharp curtailment of power from the Bhakra complex.

In-adequate power supply and instability in the power system affected production in a number of plants. Difficulties on the labour front and non-availability of raw materials of the requisite quality also proved to be serious inhibitors to production at certain places.

Every endeavour is being made to overcome these difficulties and optimise production. In matters like power supply, etc., the assistance and cooperation of the State Governments is being enlisted. The following are some of the more important steps that have been, or are being, taken to maximise production in the various units:

- (i) Repairs and renovations of old sections and carrying out a rationalisation scheme in the Sindri factory;
- (ii) Modification of certain sections of the Trombay unit;
- (iii) Arrangements for steady supply of power to the units;
- (iv) Installation of supplementary naphtha gasification facilities to produce synthesis gas and initiation of steps to maximise coke oven gas supply to the fertilizer plant at Rourkela;
- (v) Modifications in various sections of ammonia and urea plants at Neyveli;
- (vi) Repairs and renovations in certain sections of the Always unit.

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : इस सवाल के मुताबिक जो स्टेटमेंट दिया गया है इसको पढ़ने से मालूम हुआ है कि स्टेटमेंट में यह बात मानी गई है कि नांगल की जो फैक्ट्री है वह सब से ज्यादा खाद पैदा करती है मगर उसकी कैपेसिटी में भी कमी आ गई है और उसका कारण भी दिया गया है। इसमें उसका तसल्लीबख्श जवाब नहीं है कि उस कारण को दूर करने के लिए क्या तजवीज पेश की गई है तो यह में पूछना चाहूंगा कि आया कोई ऐसी तजवीज है कि इस कारण को जल्दी से जल्दी दूर किया जाय ताकि नांगल की फैक्ट्री की खाद से फायदा उठाने वाले जो पंजाब हरियाणा और पेप्सू के किसान हैं वह इससे फायदा उठा सकें ?

श्री डी० के० बरुआ : यह जो नांगल की फर्टिलाइजर फैक्ट्री है यह तो बिजली के ऊपर चलती है और बिजली की कमी के कारण से उसका उत्पादन भी कम हो गया है और यह बहुत आसान नहीं है कि उसमें तुरन्त कोई तब्दीली कर दें लेकिन इसके बारे में काफी अध्ययन हो रहा है और मुझे विश्वास है कि इसके बारे में कुछ किया जायगा।

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : एक जरूरी सवाल पूछना चाहता हूं। मुझे यह तसल्ली है कि इस मंत्रालय के माननीय मिनिस्टर गच्चे इस मंत्रालय के लिए नये हैं मगर पंजाब हरियाणा और पेप्सू के किसानों के लिए वह नये नहीं हैं उनकी हालत को वह बहुत अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं और समझते हैं। खाद की महंगाई हो जाने की वजह से उनको जो तकलीफ हो रही है वह जानते हैं, लेकिन सरकार जो किसान को इसके लिये सबसिडी देती थी वह भी बन्द हो गई है, तो जब तक कोई और इलाज नहीं हो सकता तब तक कम से कम सबसिडी की बात तो करें क्योंकि पंजाब और हरियाणा का किसान सारे हिन्दुस्तान के लिये अनाज पैदा करता है ...

श्री सभापति : मुसाफिर, मेहरबानी करके सवाल पूछिये।

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : तो मेरा सवाल यह है कि जब तक कि कोई और इलाज नहीं हो सकता खाद को सस्ता करने का तब तक क्या गवर्नमेंट यह सोच सकती है कि जो सबसिडी उसने बन्द कर दी है वह जारी कर दे ताकि किसान ज्यादा फसल पैदा कर सकें । इसमें सारे हिन्दुस्तान का सवाल है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN; His suggestion is that subsidy might be given.

श्री डी० के० बरुआ : मैं समझता हूँ, इतनी तो हिन्दी समझ लेता हूँ ।

श्री सभापति : आप बहुत अच्छी समझते हैं यह जानता हूँ लेकिन देर लग रही थी इसलिए मैंने कहा ।

श्री डी० के० बरुआ : नंगल के बारे में मैंने अभी कहा था कि बिजली को कम करने के बारे में जो चर्चा हो रही थी उस पर अध्ययन समाप्त हो गया । अभी आगे प्रयास हो रहा है । दूसरी बात जो उन्होंने अभी बताई, सब्सिडी के बारे में, यह तो अग्रिकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट की जिम्मेवारी है और मेरे ख्याल में यह क्वेश्चन उनसे ही पूछा अच्छा होगा ।

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: On the basis of the statement which has been laid by the hon. Minister on the Table of the House, it is clear that production is only 72 per cent of the capacity. May I know whether the production of fertilisers in the private sector and in the 'joint sector is sometimes 90 per cent or 95 per cent or even 105 per cent? And what are the reasons for that? In 1956, four plants, two in the private sector and two in the joint sector came up. While the public sector plants have yet to go into production, the private sector plants are giving good production, May I know what are the reasons for their non-working? Which were the companies which were allowed governmental collaboration. Along with that, there is the problem of distribu-

tion also in the public sector. May I know what the Government is doing to streamline the set up and eradicate corruption in the public sector distribution system?

डा० भाई महावीर : यह समाजवाद विरोधी क्वेश्चन क्यों अलाऊ किया जा रहा है ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: It is a fact that some of the private sector plants are doing very well. Some of the public sector factories are also doing well. Nonetheless, it is very clear that in the private sector fertiliser factories the production rate is higher than in the public sector, generally speaking.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR; You should condemn them for it.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Certainly; I quite agree with the hon. Member,

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Why should they not be more efficient?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH; Sir, so far as the two fertiliser plants at Durgapur and Cochin are concerned which were started in 1967, unfortunately, both of them have not been commissioned, though they are expected to go on stream in about a couple of months' time. The main difficulty has been the failure of some of the imported equipment. For Durgapur, we imported them from Italy; the spares were from Messrs. Thermo Meccanica, SII, from Italy, and the consultants were Messrs. Montecatini. The same thing is about Cochin also. "This is a" new type of fertiliser technology, known as a single stream technology using centrifugal compressors, this has been a matter of great concern to us; they have not come up as fast as they should have. But we have asked them to do all that is needful including the change of certain parts which have been somewhat out of specification. I hope that in a couple of months' time, they will be able to go on stream.

There is another question of distribution in the public sector, that is, in

the Fertiliser Corporation of India. We heard complaints that there was some corruption and immediately we got an inquiry made. We came to certain conclusions. One of them is, we have asked the Marketing Director of the FCI to go on leave. The General Manager of the Trombay Fertiliser Factory also to go on leave immediately. And the entire matter has been referred to the CBI for investigation.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Very good.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: So far as the question of Dr. Bhai Mahavir is concerned, as to whether they should not be condemned, certainly, Sir, those persons who have defaulted should be condemned but not the entire system because without the public sector, fertiliser development in this country would not have been possible.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the statement says that in three or four cases the Corporation is proposing to have modification and renovation of plant. Does it mean that there was some basic fault in the scheme of planning of these fertiliser plants or was it accidental that in three or four cases they require modification and renovation at such an early stage?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Sir, some of them like the Sindri were based on a technology which has since become outmoded. They require not only modification but renovation. Some measures have been taken by installing a supplementary naptha gasification unit and by introducing other measures like sulphur burning facilities in the pyrite based sulphuric acid plant.

So far as the Namrup factory is concerned it is a new factory. Nonetheless to overcome limitations in the ammonia feed pumps and ammonia condenser in Namrup, corrective measures are being taken. It will be done in a short while. The Nyveli factory is in the public sector. It is not under our Ministry but is under the Ministry of Steel. It has defective designing

and equipment and the outmoded technology in certain sections has to be changed. This is being looked into.

Certain measures have been taken for increase in production in Gorakhpur and Trombay and also Namrup. Then, Sir, in Trombay, in fact, we are introducing a number of changes and it is likely that it will be completely renovated in a short while.

Another programme of debottle-necking is being implemented in FACT which is expected to be completed soon. It is expected that the plant will attain the optimum level of production.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, excuse me for one question. The Minister has given some revealing facts. He has accepted that there were certain outdated designs and there were basic flaws in the scheming of the plant as such. It is a serious matter. May I know, Sir, whether the Government is looking into as to how in this vital sector such a thing could happen? Who was responsible for sanctioning these projects and these schemes and how these designs went through the Government if they were outmoded and defective?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not allow a second question. But if you wish to reply you may do so.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: So far as Sindri is concerned it is the oldest plant in this country. Now the technology has changed. Moreover, Sindri started with a technology which has since become outmoded. So Sindri needs renovation since the technology used at the time the plant was installed is no longer modern. Now during the course of this quarter century technology has considerably changed. Then, Sir, there are certain limitations, certain difficulties arising in the implementation of some of these technologies like in Namrup such as design. It has retarded production and has stood in the way of development. So that is also being corrected.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: What about Neyveli?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Neyveli and Rourkela units were installed in the expectation that enough lignite coke oven gas will be available. Now the coke oven gas is not available in Rourkela with the result that the factory has been able to function only partially.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: In view of the fact that there is a wide gap between the supply and demand and in view of the fact that there is food shortage, in order to supplement our effort fertiliser is a must. In view of that, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to tackle the production of fertiliser in the country on a war-footing by creating a cell in his own Ministry so that 'day-to-day efforts are made to make the country self-sufficient in fertiliser very soon?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Sir, we have been trying now to re-construct the entire Fertiliser Corporation of India in such a manner that it can become a real instrument for development and production of fertiliser in the country.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, in the Industrial Policy Resolution, fertiliser was reserved for the State sector. Why has the Government gone in for fertiliser production in the private sector? Moreover, the Fertiliser Corporation of India has the technical know-how to design and fabricate fertiliser plants 100 per cent from indigenous materials. That being so, "why is the Government going to have fertiliser plants in collaboration with Tayo Engineering, thereby wasting foreign exchange and mortgaging the country? Is it not anti-national? Why are you going in for this anti-national thing in the case of fertiliser production?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Sir, I do not agree with all the views expressed by the hon. Member. But certainly it is necessary that our production should increase. It is also a fact that we

have developed our own technology which is as good as any in other countries. But when fertiliser shortage is there and there is great demand for it, we have to expedite it. So far as the Tayo project is concerned, the Government has not come to any conclusion about it. It is under consideration.

श्री बनारसी दास : फर्टिलाइजर फ़ैक्ट्री का उत्पादन चूंकि क्षमता से नीचे है यही कारण है कि न केवल डेवलपड कन्ट्रीज बल्कि डेवलपिंग कन्ट्रीज के मुकाबले में भी हिन्दुस्तान में फर्टिलाइजर की कीमत सब से ज्यादा है। तो क्या मंत्री महोदय इस प्रस्ताव पर विचार करेंगे कि फर्टिलाइजर की कीमत को इन्टर-नेशनल कीमत के बराबर लाया जाय और किसानों को सबसिडी दी जाय ?

श्री डी० के० बरूआ : मेरे लिये यह कहना मुश्किल है कि कम्पैरेटिव कीमत कितनी है। मैं अभी नहीं कह सकता हूँ, लेकिन यह बात सही है कि हमारा प्रोडक्शन बढ़ना चाहिए और प्रोडक्शन बढ़ने पर कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन जरूर कम हो जायगी।

श्री बनारसी दास : लेकिन किसान क्यों सफर करें। यह देखते हुए कि आपकी कीमत सब से ज्यादा है यानी पाकिस्तान से भी तो हमारे यहां का उत्पादक क्यों सफर करे। इस चीज को आपको मंत्रिपरिषद के सामने रखना चाहिए कि हमारे यहां फर्टिलाइजर की कीमत कम से कम एशिया के मुल्कों के बराबर तो हो।

श्री डी० के० बरूआ : यह तो सब जानते हैं कि फर्टिलाइजर किसान ही इसे माल करते हैं, दूसरे नहीं करते हैं, लेकिन मैं यही जो फरमाया कि प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाना चाहिए वही मैं कह रहा था।

श्री सच्चानंद : आप कह चुके हैं।

श्री डी० के० बरूआ : जी हां, कह चुका हूँ।

डा० भाई महावीर : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि फर्टिलाइजर का प्रोडक्शन बढ़ना चाहिए, यदि आप यह मानते हैं तो आप कृपया यह बताइए कि कब तक हम फर्टिलाइजर के प्रोडक्शन में अपनी आवश्यकता को अपने देश में पूर्ण करने लेंगे । क्या पांचवीं योजना के अन्त तक हम सेल्फ-सफिशिएंट हो जाएंगे फर्टिलाइजर के मामले में और टेक्नोलॉजी के मामले में ? 25 साल तक फर्टिलाइजर की टेक्नोलॉजी आने के बाद भी टेक्नोलॉजी आगे बढ़ गई और हम फिर कोलेबोरेशन करते हैं, 25 साल के बाद भी टेक्नोलॉजी आगे बढ़ जायगी और हम फिर कोलेबोरेशन करते रहेंगे । तो उत्पादन के मामले में और टेक्नोलॉजी के मामले में हम अपने देश में कब तक आत्मनिर्भर हो जाएंगे, निश्चित वर्ष आप बता दें, तो कृपा होगी ।

श्री डी० के० बरूआ : प्रगतिशील काम के बारे में निश्चित समय का बंधन सम्भव नहीं है लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि यह होना चाहिए । हमारी जो टेक्नोलॉजी है वह काफी डेवलप हो चुकी है और प्रोडक्शन बढ़ाने की हमारी चेष्टा चल रही है । इसके लिए जो सब से बड़ी रुकावट है वह हमारी आर्थिक हालत है ।

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will we be self-sufficient after Fifth Plan or not?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH : I would not hazard a guess. But certainly we should try.

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि उर्वरक की जो आवश्यकता अभी देश में है और आपने जो नए नए प्लांट्स लगाए हैं जैसे बरौनी में या और जगहों में, तो उर्वरक की उपयोगिता को देखते हुए क्या उन प्लांटों को शीघ्र ही चालू करने का विचार रखते हैं, यदि हां, तो कब तक ?

श्री डी० के० बरूआ : जितने प्लांट हमने लगाए हैं, दुर्गापुर.....

श्री सभापति : आपने वह बता दिया ।

श्री डी० के० बरूआ : उन्होंने बरौनी के बारे में पूछा है । बरौनी के बारे में भी जल्दी हो जायगा ।

SHRI SARDAR AM J AD ALI : The honourable Minister has agreed that only 72 per cent of the overall capacity is now being utilised in our country. But on the other hand, we all agree that this consciousness amongst agriculturists for using fertilizers is also growing. We all agree that there will be an increase in the production of fertilizers in our country. In view of this background, may I know from the honourable Minister whether he will come out with a definite and concrete statement in the House as to when this Haldia fertilizer plant scheme is going to be implemented and when it is likely to be commissioned?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH : So far as Haldia is concerned, it is being implemented and I hope we will start work in Haldia. I had been to Haldia.

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA : Due to shortage of fertilizers in the country, the Government of India is importing large quantities of fertilizers from abroad...

MR. CHAIRMAN : This everybody knows. Kindly put your question.

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA : I want to know by what time the Government will stop the imports and take suitable steps to boost up indigenous production of fertilizers to meet the demands of the agriculturists in our country.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH : As I said, we are already short of fertilizers. So we have to import. But certainly we have to make up this gap by our own efforts.

श्री सीताराम केसरी : सभापति जी, जापान के साथ फर्टिलाइजर फैक्ट्री की जो

योजना है, जिसका अखबारों में मैं पढ़ा है, उस के कार्यान्वयन में कितना समय लगेगा ?

श्री डी० के० बरुआ : इसका मैं जवाब दे चुका हूँ ।

*271. [The questioner (Shri Sasan-Tcasekhar Sanyal) was absent. For answer vide col. 40-41 infra].

LOSSES IN TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRIC POWER IN THE COUNTRY

*272. SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state;

(a) the estimated annual loss in transmission of electric power in the country as a whole and in the northern region in particular;

(b) how these losses compare with international standards; and

(c) the steps contemplated to reduce such losses?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The quantum of energy lost during 1970-71 on account of losses in transmission, transformation and distribution was 9307 million kwh being 17.5 per cent of the total energy sent out. Corresponding figures for the Northern region are 2836.5 million kwh and 21.74 per cent,

(b) The corresponding losses in the power systems of some of the advanced countries are about 8—12 per cent.

(c) Losses in the transmission, transformation and distribution cannot be eliminated altogether as these are inherent and unavoidable, but these have to be kept down by careful planning and design and by providing adequate transmission facilities. Apparent high losses are due to unmetered supply and scattered rural loads.

Losses on account of pilferage, defective metering and leakage in transmission can be eliminated by taking adequate measures. A Committee of Engineers has been set up to go into this problem. Also the Power Research Institute, Bangalore are conducting field experiments and after the data is obtained, specific steps to reduce the losses in different States will be evolved.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Referring to para (c) of the statement, the honourable Minister has not spelt out exactly how much of the high losses are due to unmetered supply or under-billing as it is generally called, and how much due to the defect in the transmission system in the machinery, equipment, etc. and due to administrative failures I would request the honourable Minister to please state how much would be the share of these two reasons.

DR. K. L. RAO: It is not possible to give any break-up figures on this subject because we do not have it. Actually we are now setting up a field unit to make actual field observations and when these observations are available we make the analysis. Then only will it be possible for us to say how much of the losses will be due to each of these factors. We can only give the total losses that are occurring in the system in any particular State.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: In view of the fact that the total loss is so high as 22 per cent in the Northern region, will the Minister do something about it? And in the Northern region Punjab seems to account for as much as 34 per cent. If all these losses could have been checked, the present power shortage could almost have been overcome. May I ask the hon. Minister, when the generation schemes were put into effect, were not any steps taken to see that the transmission losses would be within the international standards? What are the reasons why we are waking up only now when the losses are too big?