

there is any plan for dredging the Chilka Lake which has got silted up ? What are the precautions being taken against the Chilka Lake Hooding the adjacent paddv fields with saline water which is a recurring incident once in two or three years according to the cyclonic weather'.

DR. K. L. RAO : That is exactly what the project is aiming at. The aim of the project is not only to restore salt water for the fish but also to ensure that the level of the lake does not go higher up. At this moment it is going higher by 1-2 metres in the monsoons. If you have got a good outlet the sea water can come and go out. So that is one of the objects of this project. The object is two-fold, one is to introduce salt water and the other is to provide extremely good outlet so that the flood water coming into this lake may be drained out. Dredging will depend upon the survey. If the survey shows that there is large amount of silting leaving insufficient capacity in the pond then we have got to do dredging. There will be dredging necessary at the formation of the proper mouth. That will depend upon the survey and the Committee's findings.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : May I know how much money has been spent on survey and what will be the outcome if the scheme is put into action ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Nothing has been spent so far. It is expected that the capital cost will be Rs. 10 crores and every year it will be about Rs. 20 lakhs. The benefit will be Rs. 1-2 crores annually by way of fishing.

SETTING UP OF FERTILIZER PLANTS

408. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will be Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have requested certain foreign firms to set up a net-work of fertilizer plants in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BAROOAH) : (a) and (b) No. Sir. However, some proposals have been received in this regard from certain foreign parties offering assistance in terms of technical know-how in certain areas and foreign ex-

change financing for purchase of know-how and imported equipment. These proposals are under consideration.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : May I know the anticipated demand of fertilisers at the end of the Fifth Plan period, both of nitrogen and of the phosphatic variety ? What is the current manufacturing capacity and what is the shortfall ? And how much money will be needed to set up capacity to bridge this gap ?

SHRI D. K. BAROOAH : Sir, our projected level of consumption by 1978-79 will need an additional production of 2.8 million tonnes per annum of nitrogen and 1.6 million tonnes per annum of phosphatic fertiliser, which may be achieved in 10 or 12 new plants. Regarding the cost, we have found that the cost of one fertiliser plant will be Rs. 70 to 140 crores. And we need 10 or 12 new plants.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : That means an investment of Rs. 1,600 or Rs. 1,700 crores. My next question is, it appears that we would have to import a sizable quantity of fertilisers during the Fifth Plan period because of not taking any advance action. What is the estimate of the total imports of fertilisers during the Fifth Plan period. My own information is that it will be nearly Rs. 1,000 crores. I would like to know whether it is correct. May I also know whether the Government is thinking of taking any advance action for the next Plan, i.e. the Sixth Plan ? Otherwise, you will be importing another Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000 crores of fertilisers.

SHRI D. K. BAROOAH : Sir, we have to import fertilisers of the order of Rs. 160 crores per year. Then, certainly lack of advance planning is not the only reason. There may be a little shortfall there. But the basic thing is that the demand for fertilisers has gone up by leaps and bounds.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : That is called lack of planning.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : You could lack of planning.

SHRI D. K. BAROOAH : Sir, there has been a great change in the country now. People are becoming more aware of the requirement of fertilisers than before. Therefore, there may be some shortfall in anticipation but as I said, that is not the

only reason. The basic reason is that the demand has outstripped supply to a very great extent.

श्री चक्रपाणि शुक्ल : क्या मंत्री जी को यह मालूम है कि पंचम पंचवर्षीय योजना में पब्लिक सेक्टर में 9 फर्टिलाइजर्स प्लांट्स इस्टिमेटेड होने जा रहे हैं तो इसके बारे में कोई स्थान निश्चित हुआ है क्या। और इसके लिये पंचम पंचवर्षीय योजना में राशि का कोई प्रावधान किया गया है अथवा नहीं।

श्री डी० के० बरूआ : इसमें तो करीब दस-बारह नये प्लांट्स की जरूरत पड़ेगी और इसके बारे में हमने चर्चा भी किया है और कुछ जगह के बारे में भी चिन्ता की गई है जैसे कि मथुरा में एक स्थान की बात है, भटिंडा में, करनाल या पानीपत में और विशाखापट्टनम् में और मद्रास में भी इसको करने की चर्चा है।

श्री चक्रपाणि शुक्ल : मध्य प्रदेश में इसका कोई स्थान है।

श्री डी० के० बरूआ : अभी तो देखा नहीं, देख लूंगा।

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: May I know whether the Government has come to know of problems confronting the naphtha-based fertiliser plant at Mangalore and, if so, whether the Government has any plans to expand coal-based fertiliser plants like Ramagundam?

SHRI D. K. BAROOAH : Sir, the policy has been more or less adopted that new fertiliser plants will not be based on naphtha; they will be based on fuel oil. In addition, as an alternative source of fertiliser, the Government has also started three plants: one is at Ramagundam and the other is at Talcher. The one at Korba also is, more or less, decided upon. So, if we find that these three are doing well, then we will consider other fertiliser plants also to be based on coal.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, the Minister has stated, in reply to a question of Mr. Mohhta, that there is a little shortfall and lack in planning.

SHRI D. K. BAROOAH : In anticipation

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : ... in anticipation. There is lack of planning in anticipation. Government's basic job is to plan in anticipation; that is the right policy for a Government. Perhaps, Mr. Barooah, having been a Governor for some time, has forgotten that. But I want to know from him whether Government is aware that there is utter shortfall in fertiliser production as well as supply and that is why there has been no further increase in food production, in Haryana and Punjab in spite of the Green Revolution. So, I do not understand Mr. Barooah and what he means when he says lack of anticipated planning, etc. Now, specifically I want to know from him whether there has not been an utter drift in Government policy in the last three or four years in taking a firm decision as to the technology which has to be used and as to with which foreign country a tie-up has to be made. There is an utter drift and that is why the country is importing fertilisers worth up to Rs. 160 crores now and, for the information of Mr. Barooah I may tell him that the anticipated import in the Fifth Plan period is between Rs. 200 and Rs. 300 crores. In order to stop that drain of foreign exchange you will have to take action, a firm decision and for that you should not get directions either from the radicals or from the reactionaries and so far.

{Interruptions}

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have forgotten to put the question!

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : If you will take Div pragmatic advice, I would say that whatever discussion has been made in the Planning Commission,—a team also went to Japan to go into that question—on that if you can start three or four plants you need less foreign exchange. In view of that, I want a categorical reply that you will not be pressurised in taking a decision.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : Sir, how can he force the Minister?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Because I think the Russian deal and the Chinese are not going to help us in this technology?

SHRI D. K. BAROOAH : Sir, the only time I came to know about the shortfall in

production of fertiliser was when I was the Governor of Bihar.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You were an efficient Governor.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Therefore I am aware of the problem. I am also aware of the problem that in this country—like in other developing countries—the demand outstrips the supply. I quite agree with the hon. Member, Mr. Kulkarni that we have to consider two or three aspects. When there is shortfall the answer is more production. But there are many methods of increasing production. One of them is administering the fertiliser plants better so that they will produce more than what they are producing now. That is number one. Number 2, is, to build up more plants. In this country, during the fifth Plan period, we will be having 10 or 12 more plants. And thirdly—that is also equally important—distribution also has to be organised in a more efficient manner. I am thankful to his advice that I should not be pressurised. I don't belong either to the left or to the right; I belong to that small section of people who claim to be only upright.

SHRI DAHVABHAI V. PATEL: How can anybody sitting there be upright?

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: In view of the fact that the hon. Minister has said that the demand is going up by leaps and bounds, may I know from him whether, in view of the fact that the whole trade pattern is changing in the whole world—for example—America was exporting to Russia to the tune of 139 million dollars

Last year they had exported worth 450 million dollars. In view of this, if we do not get from anywhere else, then we may have knowhow and plants from somewhere so that we may not have to waste on import of fertiliser. We may have plants run here as soon as possible with anybody's help—with the help of Japan or America or even with the help of Russia. I am not concerned with that. Somehow we may have fertiliser plants as early as possible and save our very valuable foreign exchange and also supply fertiliser as soon as possible to our cultivators.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: I quite agree with the hon. Member that we have to provide our cultivators with fertiliser and we

must produce more so that we import less. We have no objection to put up fertiliser plants in co-operation with other countries provided our national interests are safeguarded.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI: I think the hon. Minister stated that the existing units must produce more and projects which, are already taken up in hand should start producing. In view of this my question to the hon. Minister is this: what has happened to the expansion of Durgapur plant and what is the present position of Haldia project?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The hon. Member was not here when I said that Durgapur was having some teething trouble about the imported machinery and the Managing Director of the Fertiliser Corporation who had gone there has informed me that it may be possible for Durgapur plant to go into commission in a short while, certainly, within three months. So far as Haldia project is concerned, civil works have been sanctioned there.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has forwarded any proposal for setting up a fertiliser plant in Madhya Pradesh and if so what decision has been taken on that proposal.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Shri Sethi, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, has written to me about establishing a fertiliser plant in Madhya Pradesh. If I am not mistaken, Korba plant is in Madhya Pradesh. We will certainly give due consideration to what the Chief Minister has written.

श्री श्याम लाल यादव : मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ इस संदर्भ में कि उत्तर प्रदेश में कोई खाद का कारखाना लगाने का प्रस्ताव आपके विचाराधीन है? इस मिल-सिले में बनारस में शाहू केमिकल्स के साथ आपका किसी तरह का कोलाबोरेशन हुआ है ताकि वहाँ के खाद के कारखाने को बढ़ाया जा सके?

श्री डी० के० बरूआ : उत्तर प्रदेश में अभी दो खाद के कारखाने, एक कानपुर में

और दूसरा गोरखपुर में है। बनारस में भी एक छोटा सा खाद का कारखाना है जो ठीक तरह से नहीं चल रहा है। उसका प्रोडक्शन कम है, लेकिन मथुरा में जो रिफ़ाइनरी बन रही है उसके साथ एक फर्टिलाइजर का कारखाना बनाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है।

श्री श्याम लाल यादव : शाहू कैमिकल्स के साथ वहां के कारखाने के एक्सपेंशन की कोई स्कीम आपके विचाराधीन है?

श्री डी० के० बरुआ : उनकी जो फैक्टरी चल रही है वह बिलो प्रोडक्शन चल रही है। 60 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा नहीं चल रही है।

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : क्या यह बात सही है कि हमारी सरकार जापान की टोयो कम्पनी के साथ हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर 5 कारखाने खाद के लगाने के बारे में विचार कर रही है? यह देखते हुए कि जापान के विरुद्ध जबरदस्त विरोध थाइलैंड में हो रहा है? क्या सरकार जापान के साथ इस तरह की योजना को स्थगित करने का विचार कर रही है?

श्री डी० के० बरुआ : मैं माननीय सदस्य को बतला देना चाहता हूं कि गोरखपुर की जो फैक्टरी है वह टोयो कम्पनी के साथ सहयोग करके बनाई गई थी। कानपुर की जो फैक्टरी है वह भी इन के साथ सहयोग करके बनाई गई थी। गुजरात की जो फैक्टरी है वह भी टोयो कम्पनी के साथ सहयोग करके बनाई गई थी। अब ट्यूटीकोरिन का जो कारखाना है वह भी इनके साथ सहयोग करके बनाया जा रहा है। गोवा में जो फैक्टरी है, वह कम्पलीट हो चुकी है और वह भी इन्हीं के सहयोग के साथ बनाई गई है।

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : क्या इस विरोध के कारण जापान के साथ इस तरह के सहयोग के प्रस्ताव को स्थगित करने की बात विचाराधीन है?

श्री डी० के० बरुआ : विदेशों की राजनैतिक समस्याओं की वजह से इस तरह के सहयोग को बन्द कर देना मुनासिब मालूम नहीं देता है।

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Sir, it is reported that in view of the serious shortage of fertilizers in the country the Government has been pressurised by the foreign companies to start collaboration arrangements here. In this connection, Sir, I would like to know whether, in view of the discussions with the Japanese firm, Toyo, for the setting up of these plants, the engineers of the Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., Travancore in Alwaye (FACT) and the Fertilizer Corporation of India have suggested that they can start any number of plants in India with indigenous skill and technology and that there is no need for foreign collaboration. I want to know whether it is true or not.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The fact is somehow in the middle rather than on the periphery. What I said, Sir, is that in this country we need more fertilizers and confidence is a matter of experience. Toyo is having many factories here and they are doing fairly well. Some of our good factories, the one in Gorakhpur and in Gujara-t, and the urea part of the Kanpur factory, are doing fairly well. Therefore, whatever, negotiations we are entering into with this country will certainly be based on the performance of these units and the requirements of the nation and there is no question of any pressures from any body. If at all there is any pressure from anybody, it is from the common man of India, the cultivator of India, who needs more and more fertilizers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Shejwalkar.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : Sir

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Sir, I am on a point of order. Sir, I put a specific question whether the engineers of the FACT and the Fertilizer Corporation have suggested that there is no need for foreign collaboration and that they can tackle any number of plants. Is it true or not?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH : This is exactly what is being done. It will be done in collaboration with the technicians from abroad and technicians from this country. It is also true that our technicians are good, are very

good. But, you see, we can also take advantage of the know-how available from abroad-

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Shejwal-kar. Last question.

श्री ना० कु० शेजवलकर : एक तरफ आप मोनोपोलिस्ट्स को देना नहीं चाहते, दूसरी तरफ पब्लिक सेक्टर में भी यह काम देना नहीं चाहते और इस कारण बाहर तमाम रुपया फारेन एक्सचेंज के रूप में भेजते हैं इम्पोर्ट करने के कारण तो क्या आप अपनी इस पोलिसी को रिवाइज करने को तैयार हैं जो यहां ज्यादा इन्वेस्ट कर सकते हैं उनको एलाउ करें नेशन के इन्टरेस्ट में ताकि वे ज्यादा तादाद में कारखाने खोल सकें और साल में 160 करोड़ 200 करोड़ जो बाहर भेजना पड़ता है वह न भेजना पड़े।

श्री डी० के० बरुआ : माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा है कि हम फटिलाइजर फैक्टरी किसी को बनाने नहीं देते, पब्लिक सेक्टर में नहीं बनाते हैं, प्राइवेट सेक्टर को भी नहीं देते, यह बात सही नहीं है। हम सोच विचार कर करना चाहते हैं। आप जानते हैं कि फटिलाइजर फैक्टरी पब्लिक सेक्टर में भी हैं और प्राइवेट सेक्टर में भी हैं। अभी तक सरकार इसी पोलिसी पर चल रही है और कोई नई पोलिसी बनाने के बारे में अभी हम सोच नहीं रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, next question.

COST OF BASIC DRUGS

409. SHRI KOTA

PUNNATAHr

SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MU-

SAFIR: SHRI J. S. TILAK: SHRI

CHANDRA SHEKHAR : DR. 2. A. AHMAD

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

steps taken by Government to reduce the cost of basic drugs manufactured in the country 7 v

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BO ROOAH): Reduction in cost of production of basic drugs can be secured by fuller utilisation of installed capacities by research and development to reduce process costs and by adoption of the most advantageous technology available in the new projects. Government are implementing measures to allow fuller utilisation of capacities wherever considered feasible. Licensing applications involving foreign technologies are scrutinised by technical experts to ensure induction of the most suitable technology available to us. Government have also been encouraging production units in the country to take up research and development activities as part of their manufacturing programme.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH : Is it not a fact that the Government has failed in its efforts to reduce the cost of basic drugs ? Also, is it not a fact that these drugs are not easily available at the rates fixed by the Government to the common man ?

SHRr D. K. BOROOAH : I do not agree that the Government has totally failed to stop the spiral of prices of these drugs. I find, Sir, that as against the general cost of living index of 230 during the past year, the price index in respect of Drugs is only of the order of 148.7 on 24-2-73.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH : What about my second question ? Is it not a fact that drugs are not easily available at the rates fixed by the Government to the common man ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Sir, certainly in this country with the advance in consumption there may be some difficulty. But if the hon. Member likes to bring to our notice any specific case, certainly we shall do something about it.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: My second question. Is it not a fact that there is pilferage of these drugs in Government hospitals which are meant for the poor people ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: That is a matter which is under the Ministry of

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kota Pun-naiah.