

pelletising units and that the agriculturists will get the fertilizer at a cheap rate.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Important fertilizers like urea, calcium, ammonia, nitrogen, ammonia sulphate, which are mostly nitrogenous fertilizers, are fully controlled as far as their price is concerned, whether they are imported or are indigenously produced. As regards the use of fertilizers, of course, there is no direct control. But broadly the prices which are prevalent are in line with that of the pool fertilizers which we import. But what the honourable Member has said is a suggestion for consideration, then as far as the manure mixing plants or fertilizer pelletisation plants to which the honourable Member has made a reference is concerned, we make allotments to the State Governments and it is for the State Governments to make allotments to meet the requirements of these plants.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : In the memorandum which has been placed on the Table of the House, the Kheti Bari Union has alleged that the Government's policies were anti-kisan and the reason they ascribed to this was that the planners, administrators and law-makers are under the influence of people who have nothing to do with agriculture and who do not have the welfare of agriculturists at heart. Therefore they have come to the conclusion that either they have to choose one of the two alternatives—whether to die with grace or live with disgrace. I wish to know whether after analysing this memorandum you have come to the conclusion or not that all this has been the result of the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission which after a good deal of controversy—described as wheat lobby by the Press and others—were changed by the Government, I would like to know whether you have any steps in view to avoid this type of situation where trouble is created and tensions are generated and after all that the Government decides to keep status quo.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : As far as price policies are concerned, Government of India is very conscious of protecting the interests of the producers. But at the same time we have to see another thing. We have in this country a very large number of consumers who have a very poor purchasing power. We have to see that a judicious balance is maintained between the consumers and the producers. We have also to see at the same time that indigenous production has to be encouraged in such a way that our dependence on imports from foreign countries is reduced to the extent possible. Therefore...

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : But growers are objecting...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : My question was...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You get up after each answer.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Was it irrelevant ? The whole thing has come out because of the tensions generated by the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission and government's decision to maintain status quo. Will these things be repeated...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put the next question.

वायुमंडल के संदूषण की समस्याएं

*496. डा० साई महावीर : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान वायुमंडल के संदूषण की समस्याओं के सम्बन्ध में 13 अप्रैल, 1972 के हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में प्रकाशित इण्डियन मीटियोरोलॉजिकल

सोसायटी के अध्यक्ष प्रोफेसर रामनाथम् के दक्षतव्य की ओर दिलाया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो वायुमंडल के संदूषण को रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

PROBLEMS OF AIR POLLUTION

•496. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of Prof Ramanathan, Chairman, Indian Meteorological Society appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated the 13th April, last in regard to the problem of air-Pollution; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to check air-Pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government proposes to bring forth legislation to check the pollution of air in the country. The proposed legislation would be introduced in Parliament at the earliest opportunity. It would provide adequate powers to the Central and State Governments for taking effective steps to control air pollution.

‡[स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० देवीप्रसाद चट्टोपाध्याय) : (क) जी हाँ।

(ख) देश में वायु दूषण को रोकने के लिए सरकार का एक कानून बनाने का विचार है। यह प्रस्तावित कानून संसद में यथा शीघ्र पेश कर दिया जाएगा।

†[] English translation

‡[] Hindi translation

इससे केन्द्रीय और राज्य सरकारों को वायु दूषण को रोकने की दिशा में कारगर कदम उठाने के लिए पर्याप्त शक्तियाँ मिल जाएंगी।]

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : It appears the Hon. Minister has not cared to go through the details of the statement to which I have referred. Prof. Ramanathan in the statement has alleged that there is callous disregard of the effects of pollution on the part of public sector industries as such and therefore he has stated that while private sector can be forced to take certain anti-pollution measures, nobody from the public sector industries cares to attend even the meetings which are called. Have you given any attention to this, because passing a law is after all what you will enact here ? But if people who are under your direct command are unconcerned about it and totally negligent about it, what steps is the Government going to take on that ?

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : We have given due care and consideration to the ideas of Prof. Ramanathan and we are aware that he has referred to the public sector companies and has said that they are primarily responsible for it. But my friend Dr. Bhai Mahavir will realise that the proposed legislation, when brought forward, will enable us to take uniform measures against all concerned, both private sector industries and public sector industries. So, Sir, there will be no differential treatment or discriminatory attitude on the part of the Government towards those who pollute the air.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, my second question is this : Professor Ramanathan, President of the Meteorological Society, has stated or he has underlined the need for action at grassroots level which, I believe, is not quite what is meant by passing a law. Therefore, this action at grass-roots level which he says is

necessary should be taken because, according to him, some of our very good cities like Vishakhapatnam which were public health resorts once are becoming public health hazards. I would like to know, in the view of the Government, what is meant by action at grass-roots level if it does not mean a greater consciousness in the mind of every functionary at every level; and what is being done to do that apart from the proposed law ?

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, when the law is enacted, we will have a Central Air Pollution Control Authority and we will also have similar controlling authorities in all the States and those State Bodies and the Central Body will have necessary power to control what my friend says grass-root cause of air pollution. So, Sir, they will be quite competent.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, the point is that law will not be enough.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, law will be enough and it will be backed, I believe, by public awareness and co-operation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Dr. Nagappa Alva.

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA : Sir, it is an established fact that with rapid industrialisation and urbanisation, water pollution and air pollution and also a kind of mind pollution go on increasing and adversely affect the health of the people, both physical and mental. So, Sir, is it not necessary to take necessary measures urgently by co-ordinated efforts of all concerned to combat the hazards and evils of this ?

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, I entirely agree with the necessity of a co-ordinated approach. But, Sir, about the problem of mind pollution, I do not know whether it will be adequate to control it. I do not know. But, Sir,

about the other things, there will be Air Pollution [Control Bodies, both at the Centre and in the States and I do not know whether the hon. Member has referred to them.

AN HON. MEMBER : He mentioned about mind pollution.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Minister, have you finished ?

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, I have said that the State Bodies and the Central Body will function in a co-ordinated manner.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, Mr. Kalyan Roy has mind pollution.

(Interruptions)

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA : Sir, I owe a duty to the House to explain why I mentioned mind pollution. There is a special significance for that, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is about air pollution.

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA : Sir, in the year 1966. the subject... (Interruptions) ... for the World Health Assembly was air pollution and water pollution and at that time, this subject "Time impact of the Glaring Disparities and Inequalities on the people" was considered. So, Sir,--

(Interruptions) MR.

CHAIRMAN : All right.

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA : Sir, I owe an explanation. I have to explain.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have started giving a long explanation.

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA : The impact in the present day of urbanisation and industrialisation is because of the disparities

...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, everybody knows that. Y«, Dr. Chakrabarti.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : Sir, in connection with the air pollution problem, I understand that in the universities we have qualified persons to tackle this problem. My question is whether there is any proposal from the Government side to ask our universities for carrying out research in this direction and suggest suitable remedies.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, we have already a Central Public Health Engineering Institute at Nagpur and we have set up 9 Monitoring stations in different parts of the country and they will be manned by the personnel who are quite capable of being on the university staff.

DEATHS DUE TO LIQUOR POISONING

*497. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of liquor poisoning is on the increase;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of deaths due to liquor poisoning took place in different parts of the country during the last six months; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent the manufacture of spurious liquor in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

श्री भोला प्रसाद : मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि नकली शराब और जहरीली शराब से जो लोग मर रहे हैं, उसकी रोकथाम के लिए सरकार की ओर से क्या क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ? क्या इस तरह की शराब बेचने के सम्बन्ध में और खरीदने के सम्बन्ध में लोगों को शिक्षित करने की व्यवस्था की जा रही है ताकि इस तरह की शराब पीने से लोगों को मौत से बचाया जा सके ? क्या सरकार इस तरह के लोगों का ध्यान इस चीज की ओर आकर्षित कर रही है जो इस तरह की शराब के शिकार हो जाते हैं ?

प्रो० एस० नुरुल हसन : जनाब वाला, यही तो चीज हमने जवाब में कही है कि इस बारे में स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स से इत्तिला जमा की जा रही है और यूनियन टैरीटरीज से जमा कर रहे हैं। पहले जब इत्तिला पूरी हो जायेगी तब फिर इसके ऊपर माननीय सदस्य कुछ और सवाल पूछें, तो गुंजायश पैदा हो सकती है। जिस तरह से उन्होंने सवाल पूछा है, उसके बारे में पूरी इत्तिला अभी हमारे पास नहीं आई है।

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा : इतने लोग मर गये हैं और अभी तक आपके पास इत्तिला नहीं आई, यह ताज्जुब की बात है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : He says that the information will be collected . . .

{Interruptions}

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : What information has he collected , ..

{Interruptions}

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : Delhi is under your very nose...

{Interruptions}