

FOREIGN VISIT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF HINDUSTAN STEEL

*558. SHRI ARJUN ARORA : SHRI KRISHAN KANT : DR. SALIG RAM : SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA :

Will the the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the visits of the Chairman, Hindustan Steel, abroad ever since he took charge of the office;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange spent on those tours and how many reports he submitted ;

(c) how many days he spent at the Headquarters and plants during the last six months; and

(d) where did he spend the rest of the time in the past six months ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) :

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Since he took charge in May, 1968, the present Chairman of Hindustan Steel Limited went abroad seven times on official work. The visits were in connection with the affairs of the Company covering matters like import of critically-needed spares; deputation of British experts and training of Indian engineers for Durgapur Steel plant; maintenance difficulties and technical bottlenecks in Rourkela Steel Plant; collaboration agreements with a firm of USA for the design and manufacture of rolling mills, and with Tiaz-promexport of USSR for design and project engineering of major units of a steel plant complex; possibilities of acquisition of know-how for the design and manufacture of coke ovens, LD converters, and basic oxygen Plants; manufacture of Cold Rolled Grain oriented Sheets and seamless tubes; research and development in steel industry; export of rails, pig iron,

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

structural, billets, pipes etc; import of steel and for participation in meetings of International Iron and Steel Institute etc.

Taken together, he visited, during these tours, the U.K., U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, France, Spain, West Germany, Austria, Poland, Iran, Kuwait, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Bangkok, South Korea and the Philippines.

(b) The total foreign exchange utilised was equivalent to about Rs. 41,000.

He has submitted two formal reports besides reporting to Government on all important matters.

(c) and (d) During the last six months from December, 1970 to May, 1971 he was on leave for 20 days in April, and for 3 days in May, 1971. Of the balance of 159 days, he spent 103 days at his headquarters or in the Steel Plants, and 56 days outside, of which he spent, on different occasions, 44 days in Delhi, 7 days in Calcutta, 4 days in Madras and also 1 day at Bangalore.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that when a crisis was there in Durgapur, the Chairman of the H. S. L. was abroad, and because of his certain acts the former Minister of Steel had to issue orders that he should not go abroad without Government's permission ?

Secondly, he has mentioned about collaboration agreements with a firm of USA for the design and manufacture of rolling mills, etc. and with USSR. Will he lay these Agreements on the Table of the House, because I had asked a question from the former Minister of Steel, Mr. Pant, about the agreement with USSR ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : And he said that it would not be entered into...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him answer your question.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : So far as the question relating to the absence of the Chairman of HSL at the time of any crisis in Durgapur is concerned, I do not know

to which particular period the hon. Member is referring. There have been a number of crisis in Durgapur at various times and it is possible that at one particular period he may have been out of the country. If the hon. Member specifies which is the period of crisis he is referring to, I can answer the question specifically.

Secondly, regarding the question of any orders issued about the Chairman that he should not go out of the country without the permission of the Government, no such orders have been issued. It has always been the convention that the Chairman should inform the Government, and discuss with us when he wishes to go abroad for any purpose, and that convention has been observed. But I repeat that no orders have been issued to the Chairman, of this character.

Regarding the question of laying these Agreements on the Table of the House, unless—I am an inexperienced Minister, you will appreciate—unless there is any special objection in doing it, I will have them laid on the Table of the House. From the commercial point of view, I am not sure whether there is any objection. But I want to safeguard myself. But personally I will certainly like them to be laid on the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

†उर्वरकों में कैंसर उत्पन्न करने वाले तत्व

* 358. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान एक जापानी विशेषज्ञ द्वारा प्रकट किये गये इस विचार को ओर दिलाया गया है कि सब प्रकार के आधुनिक उर्वरकों में कैंसर उत्पन्न करने वाले तत्व होते हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

FERTILIZERS CONTAINING CANCER ELEMENTS

*358. SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE/कृषि मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the observation made by a Japanese expert that all types of modern fertilizers contain elements causing cancer ; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereon ?]

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अण्णासाहेब पो० शिंदे) : (क) हाल ही की प्रेस रिपोर्टों के अनुसार एक जापानी अनुसन्धान वैज्ञानिक ने यह खोज की है कि जापान में निर्मित छः किस्मों के रासायनिक उर्वरक ऐसे हैं, जिनमें कि हाइड्रोकार्बन्स के सूक्ष्म अंश विद्यमान होते हैं जो कि कैंसर का कारण बन सकते हैं। परन्तु जापानी वैज्ञानिक यह नहीं बता सके हैं कि ये हानिकारक पदार्थ किस सीमा तक फसलों के पौधों में प्रवेश कर सकते हैं।

(ख) जापानी वैज्ञानिक के कथित निष्कर्षों पर भारतीय कृषि अनुसन्धान परिषद, स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय तथा खाद्य विभाग के परामर्श से विचार किया जा रहा है।

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THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE/ffa ^eTT^W q[TT5q *T3li (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) According to recent press reports, a Japanese scientist has found that six varieties of chemical fertilisers produced in Japan contained small quantities of hydro-carbons which may cause cancer. The Japanese scientist is, however, reported to have not been able to find out the extent to which these dangerous substances find their way into the crop plants.

(b) The reported findings of the Japanese scientist are under examination in consultation with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Ministry of Health and the Department of Food.]