

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, in this connection—I am not bothered about privileges—one thing has been rather serious, that telegrams given there are shown to the local administration. I should like to know why telegrams which are given to the posts and telegraphs office should be shown to the local administration . . .

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : Sir, this has nothing to do with the question directly.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, why should telegrams . . .

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : That has nothing to do with this question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I was speaking about Banka Babu's statement. Anyway, about bad taste, I should like to know what the definition of "bad taste" is. Would you consider it to be in good taste or bad taste when, for example, the press meets some leaders of the Congress Parliamentary Executive, is briefed by them about the disciplinary action against Mr. Chandra Shekhar and then publishes it? Would you consider such a collusion to be matter of good taste or bad taste . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : This does not arise.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, why are you not allowing this? It is a matter of taste pure and simple. I am asking them whether they would consider it to be in good taste or bad taste if some members go and brief the press against another member to overawe him and intimidate him?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I think the hon. Member is right and I think it is equally bad if two Communists quarrel among themselves. It is also bad that C.P.I.(M) should quarrel with C.P.I. Right.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : What is the difference between the cases of "obscenity" and the cases of "bad taste"? Further I want to know the results of those cases regarding "obscenity" and "bad taste".

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, there is a great deal of difference. I will give you only one example. For instance, there was a complaint with the Press

Council regarding publication of news and articles to defame the lady Principal of a girls' school. This is in bad taste. So far as obscenity is concerned . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We cannot hear you.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Why don't you use the ear-phones?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He cannot hear you.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, the main point is, there is difference between "bad taste" and "obscenity". So far as journalistic sense is concerned, there are journalistic improprieties. I gave an example that there was a complaint with the Press Council regarding the publication of news and articles to defame the lady principal of a girls' school. That would be bad taste. So far as obscenity is concerned, I do not think I have to define it for my friend. I hope he understands it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILISERS

\*466. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) how far Government's decision to give freedom to manufacturers of fertiliser to sell 70 per cent of their products on their own has resulted in speedy distribution amongst the farmers ; and

(b) the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The decision of the Government to give freedom of marketing to manufacturers of fertilisers to sell 70 per cent of their products till December, 1968 and 100% of their production now, on their own has by and large, facilitated speedy distribution of fertilisers to farmers,

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Sir, we all know that this distribution system is very faulty and most unsatisfactory. May I know whether there is any machinery with the Government to see that this freedom that is given to the

manufacturers to dispose of a major portion of their products on their own will not result in inflation of the prices and thereby put the farmers to a loss as they may have to pay more at a time when they need more ? Has any such machinery been set up to see that this is arrested?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, the hon. Member should appreciate that the distribution in the field level is under the jurisdiction of the State Governments. The decision that the Government has taken that the producers should have their own marketing arrangements is in order to popularise the fertilisers. At one stage, the hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture even suggested to the manufacturers that they should set up even soil-testing laboratories to help the farmers in order to popularise the fertilisers. And our experience is that during the last year and a half, there has been no complaint in regard to timely availability of fertilisers or adequate availability of fertilisers. Our reports indicate, the State Governments have indicated, that the fertilisers have been easily available all over the country during the last year and a half.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY: Sir, the Central Fertiliser Pool is intended only for equitable distribution of fertilisers at reasonable rates. It should neither get any profit nor incur any loss. But, as a matter of fact, in 1966, this Fertiliser Pool earned a profit of Rs. 5 crores. This is without the sanction of Parliament. We all know that the price is about Rs. 370 per metric ton, whereas they sell it at Rs. 535 per metric ton. So the margin is Rs. 165 per ton. May I know if it was intended that the Pool should earn profit and, if not, how has this difference of Rs. 165 come about between the purchase price and the selling price ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, there is no intention whatsoever of the Government to earn any profit out of the operations of the Fertiliser Pool. At a particular point of time, there may be a little profit. (*Interruption*) But the intention of the Government is that it should operate on a no-profit-no-loss basis. As far as indigenous production is concerned, I have already replied that there is free distribution through the manufacturers themselves. Only the fertilisers which are imported

are distributed through the Fertiliser Pool, and we make allotments to the State Governments and then the State Governments in turn pass it on to the various distributors, wholesalers and retailers. Neither the State Government nor the Centre has any intention to earn profits. The margin is also prescribed for distribution.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when there is a great demand for fertilisers, is the Government aware that during the last two years, the prices of fertilisers have gone up by 100 per cent, and the 10% *ad valorem* duty levied this year in the Budget has again added to the increase in price ? Under these circumstances, when the farmers are accepting this new approach based on modern technology and science, will the hon. Minister assure this House to-day that all possible reliefs will be rendered to the farmers and this 10% *ad valorem* duty imposed by the Finance Minister . . .

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM : It does not arise out of this.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my point is, though the question is about distribution, because of scarcity of fertilisers, the prices are high and they will become higher because of the *ad valorem* duty. Will the hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture use his good offices with the Finance Minister and render assistance to the farmers who are accepting this new approach ?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM : Sir, my point is this. I am subject to your ruling. I have no objection in replying to the question. But the whole point is whether this arises out of the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It does not. Mr. Balachandara Menon.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : Sir, two days back there was an article in the *Hindu* that a good deal of fertiliser is not being used in Tamil Nadu because of the drought conditions there. Will the Government help the fertiliser factories there to remove their products to other areas where they are required and give them at concessional rates for the time being so that peasants in other parts of India are able to get them ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, we appreciate the difficulties of the manufacturers and the distributors, and that is why the Government of India has a proposal now to have a Fertiliser Credit Guarantee Corporation. As far as the specific difficulties of the Tamil Nadu Government are concerned, we will look into them.

SHRI DALPAT SINGH : Sir, apart from the high prices of the fertilizers there is another difficulty. Our farmers are not getting the fertilizers in time. The Government agencies and various other agencies which are supplying them are not supplying them in time with the result a large amount of fertilizers remains unutilized. May I know whether this complaint is taken note of by the Government and what steps the Government intends taking in this regard ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, no State Government has brought to our notice any complaint that timely availability of fertilizers was not there. If the honourable Member brings any such instance to our notice, we will be very much interested because we would like to know if such a thing is happening because our information is that there is no difficulty in regard to the availability of fertilizers.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : श्रीमान ने अभी बतलाया कि आपको इस दौरान किसी प्रकार की शिकायत नहीं मिली है, तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आपने स्वयं इस बारे में जानकारी प्राप्त की थी, क्योंकि कुछ स्थानों पर फर्टिलाइजर के दाम बढ़ा दिये जाने से किसानों को कठिनाई हो रही है और इसी लिये मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आपने इस बारे में स्वयं जानकारी प्राप्त की है ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : We have no complaint, Sir, to this effect.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU : May I know, Sir, as to what are the various channels of distribution now available and whether it is through the Government agencies or cooperative agencies or private agencies or a combination of all ? If so, what are their respective proportions so far as the distribution of fertilizers is concerned ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, all types of distributing agencies should be utilised for the distribution of fertilizers. That is our approach. We do not put any restrictions on any particular type of agency, and that is what I explained at an earlier stage. We want that the Government, cooperative and private sector agencies should play an effective role in this.

श्री दयाल दास कुर्रे : मैं मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि उर्वरक निर्माताओं के जो प्राइवेट एजेंट हैं, क्या वे शासन के सामने आये और क्या शासन की तरफ से उन्हें इस प्रकार की कोई हिदायत दी गई है, जिससे वे गांवों में रेनी सीजन के पहले फर्टिलाइजर का स्टॉक कर सकें ताकि किसानों को फर्टिलाइजर के मिलने में कोई कठिनाई न हो और वे सुविधापूर्वक वहां से उसे ले सकें। क्या इस प्रकार की हिदायत शासन की तरफ से दी गई है या नहीं ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, the honourable Member has put his finger on a very right point because in order to have an easy availability all over the country our intention is that there should be storage facilities all over the country at particular points. We have made a provision in the Plan now for constructing godowns under cooperative and other sectors so that proper storage facilities would be available for fertilizers.

भारतीय पत्रकारिता को प्रभावित किया जाना

\* 467. श्री पीताम्बर दास :

डा० भाई महावीर :†

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :

श्री प्रेम मनोहर :

श्री रत्न लाल जैन :

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा :

क्या सूचना तथा प्रसारण और संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विदेशी धन के द्वारा भारत में पत्रकारिता को प्रभावित करने के प्रयत्न किये जा रहे हैं; और

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Bhai Mahavir.