

## RAJYA SABHA

*Tuesday, the 19th November, 1968/  
28 Kartika, 1890 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,  
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### PRODUCTION PATTERN OF REFINERIES

\*31. **SHRI KRISHAN KANT:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is any proposal under Government's consideration to study the production pattern of each refinery and the extent to which it could be expected to meet the regional requirements;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) how long it will take to complete the study?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. RAGHURAM-IAH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is to study the product patterns of the refineries with a view to maximising the production of naphtha through the use of lighter crudes, the adjustment of yield patterns and the adoption of secondary processing techniques. This is being done in the context of the shortage of naphtha otherwise foreseen in the country after 1971 for fertiliser and petrochemical projects.

(c) The study is expected to be completed by early 1969.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT:** Sir, is it for the first time that they are trying to study this thing or they have had some projections made earlier? And if they have made any changes in the projections, what are they?

**SHRI K. RAGHURAMIAH:** Sir, this study has arisen especially after the report made by the Indian Petroleum Institute about the likely shortage

of naphtha. There are from time to time projections made by private oil companies as well as by I.P.C. and they have taken into account the demand and supply, but on a big scale this is the projection so far as I am aware.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT:** The main thing is: Have we tried earlier? We have got 8.3 million tonnes of crude oil in the Assam private sector refineries, and about 7.20 million tonnes in the other public sector refineries. Last year we were told at one time that naphtha was available in plenty and at another time within six months we were told that naphtha was not available in plenty. So the main thing is how you are going to get it. Will it be possible to do away with imports of liquid ammonia for manufacturing fertilizers till a study is made and an attempt is made to see that only naphtha is used for manufacturing fertilizers?

**SHRI K. RAGHURAMIAH:** Sir, this is a study made in depth by the Indian Petroleum Institute and they have got categorical figures of what is likely to be in deficit. And this particular group, what it is trying to do is how best to maximise the naphtha productions by varying the density of it and the specifications of it, so that the requirements for fertilizers and petrochemicals can be met. On how best to augment our naphtha resources, this is a study in depth.

**SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:** In view of the utter confusion in knowledgeable circles in this country in thinking what will be the best feed-stock for the manufacture of fertilizers, is the Government aware that at least the production pattern of all these refineries has to be regulated, so that the needs of petroleum, kerosene, mobile oil and feed-stock for fertilizers are easily available? Is the Government aware that some such necessity has arisen in this country? And what positive steps the Government will take in this connection?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : Without conceding there is any confusion, the whole object of the present study group is to assess exactly how to augment the naphtha resources for fertilizers and petro-chemical industries within the ambit of our present or prospective refining capacity.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बतलाने का कष्ट करेंगे कि अभी तक देश के किन किन प्रान्तों में ये रिफाइनरी काम कर रही है और ऐसे कौन कौन से भाग हैं जहाँ पर सरकार आगे चलकर इस तरह की रिफाइनरियों को खोलने का विचार कर रही है ? अगर सरकार इस संबंध में विचार कर रही है, तो कबतक उनके खोलने की योजना है और वे खुल जायेंगी ?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : The hon. Member knows about our refineries in Assam, Gujarat, in Andhra, in Bombay and in Cochin. And as regards the setting up of any possible future refineries, it is a matter for further examination, which is being done from time to time depending on our requirements.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA : May I know what is the progress of the refinery at Haldia port in West Bengal?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : Relating to a particular refinery I would like to have notice.

DR. B. N. AVTANI : In view of the large-scale oil installations at the port of Kandla, is there any scheme under consideration to start a refinery at that port?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : I am not aware of any present scheme.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, may I ask the Minister whether it is not a fact that in spite of planning of this industry a very acute shortage of kerosene and diesel oil has developed in the country and what steps Government are going to take to see that this shortage is removed?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : So far as kerosene oil is concerned, there

has been shortage, but I think we will overcome that shortage by the time the Madras refinery goes into production, and also the Haldia one.

SHRI A. D. MANI : What about diesel oil?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : I would like to look into it.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : My question is also on the same lines. By what time will we be self-sufficient in kerosene and diesel? And will we be surplus in gasoline by that time, and how do we propose to dispose of that gasoline?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : At the moment we are surplus in gasoline, but what the picture about gasoline will be by 1975 is difficult to foresee. But about kerosene I have already said that as soon as the Madras refinery goes into production—Haldia will take two to three years—by that time we will be self-sufficient in kerosene.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Will about diesel?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : I said I will supply the figures.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : May I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister when the Madras refinery will be starting production? When did it start and what is the present stage and whether the full complement of technical staff have been recruited?

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : The Madras refinery is expected to go into production in February next. And as regards diesel—the question was asked earlier—we are exporting diesel oil.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : The Minister has not answered all my questions.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH : I think he asked about the staff. Staff recruitment was over to the extent it was necessary, but it is being kept constantly in view as and when further staff is required.

**SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON :** Apart from naptha, have the Government made any study of the other products of the refineries? And have they made any projections with regard to the requirements of other products, with regard to the development of petrochemical industry?

**SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH :** Sir the main feed-stock for petrochemical industry is naptha. So projections have been made in relation to naptha.

**SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON :** Is it a fact that the off-gas in some of the refineries is not being used, and may I know, Sir, whether Government have made any study with regard to that?

**SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH :** Off-gas? I think the hon. Member is referring to what can be utilised for cooking purposes, what they call LPG. We try to make the best utilisation of it, but the bottleneck in many cases has been the shortage of steel till recently and now fabrication limitations are there. But we are trying to find out as many containers as possible so that the whole gas could be utilised.

#### RECESSION IN THE CONDOM MANUFACTURING SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY

\*32. **SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :** Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY, PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of recession prevailing in the indigenous Condom Manufacturing Small Scale Industry and if so, what steps Government propose to take to help the small industry to aggressively participate in the Government's programme of purchasing Condoms ;

(b) the quantity and the amounts in value of condoms allowed to be imported through actual user's quota as well as through London Rubber Co. during 1965-66, 1966-67 and the first quarter of 1968-69; and

(c) the progress made in the Public Sector Condom manufacturing plant as regards production?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR) :** (a) The Condom Manufacturing Small Scale Industry has been representing to Government that they have been forced to either curtail or suspend their production. For helping the Industry in lifting the indigenous production of condoms a tender enquiry worth Rs. 15 lakhs was issued twice. Another tender enquiry for 30 million pieces through indigenous sources has been issued recently.

(b) The required information is not readily available. Efforts will be made to collect it.

(c) Erection work of the plant of the Nirodh Factory at Trivandrum is nearing completion. The Factory is likely to start production by the end of the current year.

**SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :** I am very sorry to say that the reply is very superficial, but may I know, Sir from the Government this? That tenders are invited, etc., I can understand. But the basic malady with the small-scale industry manufacturing condoms is the rigorous test introduced in this country only, to suit monopoly manufacturers like the London Rubber Company. Is it not a fact that the London Rubber Company is allowed to import the condoms and to reneck them here, while the small-scale industry which wants to indigenously produce the same are forbidden to do so because of the rigorous test imposed in their case, which does not suit this country. Is it not a fact?

**श्री निरंजन वर्मा :** यह भी बतला दिया जाय कि कंडोम होता क्या है ?

**डा० बी० एन० अन्तनी :** और होना चाहिये क्या ?

**DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR :** I would like to tell the hon. Member that we are very anxious to promote indigenous manufacture of condoms and we are doing all the best we can to do it. But the whole aim of introducing the condom in the family planning programme is to bring down the birth rate. Therefore we have to insist on specific stan-