

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 18th March, 1966/the 27th
Phalgun, 1887 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

AVAILABILITY OF KEROSENE AND LIGHT DIESEL TO FARMERS

*604. SHRI ABDUL GHANI: Will the
Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMI-
CALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal
before the Indian Oil Corporation to make
available maximum quantities of kerosene
and light diesel oil to the farmers in the
country;

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

(c) how much light diesel oil is at pre-
sent being given annually to farmers for
their tractors ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHE-
MICALS (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH):

(a) and (b) The Indian Oil Corporation,
as well as Government, are continuously
engaged in studying methods to improve
supplies of all petroleum products to far-
mers and all other sections of the popula-
tion.

(c) Light Diesel oil is not required for
use in farm tractors. High Speed Diesel
Oil is used for farm tractors and is avail-
able in sufficient quantities.

سری عبدالغنی : کیا وزیر صاحب

فرمائیں گے کہ لائٹ ڈیزل آئل

پمپنگ سٹیشن کے لئے جو درکار تھا

کسانوں کو اور ابھی ابھی سرکار کے علم

میں ہوگا کہ بارش نہ ہونے کے کارن

لاکھوں پمپنگ سٹیشن ملک میں

لگے - مہاراشٹر میں اکیلیے ہی ۲۰

ہزار لگے اور پنجاب میں اس سے
زیادہ لگے اور ان کو لائٹ ڈیزل آئل
کی ضرورت بھی لیکن وہ ان کو نہیں
دیا جا سکا - سو وہ کیوں نہیں دیا
جا سکا -

†[श्री अब्दुल गनी : क्या वजीर साहब
फरमाएंगे कि लाइट डिजल आयल पम्पिंग सेट्स
के लिए जो दरकार था किसानों को और अभी-
अभी सरकार के इलम में होगा कि बारिश न
होने के कारण लाखों पम्पिंग सेट्स मुल्क में लगे।
महाराष्ट्र में अकेले ही 25 हजार लगे और
पंजाब में इससे ज्यादा लगे और उनको लाइट
डिजल आयल की जरूरत थी लेकिन वह उनको
नहीं दिया जा सका। तो वह क्यों नहीं दिया
जा सका ?]

सरदार इकबाल सिंह : लाइट डीजल
आयल पम्पिंग सेट्स और लिफ्ट इरीगेशन
के लिये ज्यादा इस्तेमाल होता है। इस दफा
मानसून न होने की वजह से इसकी डिमांड
कुछ बढ़ी है और गवर्नमेंट ने कोशिश की है
कि बढ़ी हुई डिमांड को वह पूरा करे इंटरनल
प्रोडक्शन बढ़ा कर। लेकिन फिर भी अगर
किसी जगह कमी हो तो हम कोशिश करते
हैं कि उसको पूरा किया जाय।

سری عبدالغنی : کیا وزیر صاحب

فرمائیں گے کہ لائٹ ڈیزل آئل جو

مختلف اسٹیشنوں کو دیا گیا اس کا

۹۰ پریسنت سرکاری کارخانوں کو حلانے

کے لئے دیا گیا ہے وہ باور ہاؤسز ہوں

حائے کوئی اور کارخانے ہوں یا بڑے

بڑے مل ہوں اور انگریکولچرسٹ کے

پمپنگ سٹیشن جو سب سے وہ لائٹ ڈیزل

کے نہ ملنے کی وجہ سے بند رہے اور

اس سے فصلوں کو نقصان پہنچا -

†[श्री अब्दुल गनी : क्या वजीर साहब फरमाएंगे कि लाइट डीजल आयल जो मुह्तलिफ स्टेटो को दिया गया उसका 90 परसेंट सरकारी कारखानों को चलाने के लिए दिया गया चाहे वह पावर हाउसेज हों चाहे कोई और कारखाने हों या बड़े-बड़े मिल हों और एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट के पम्पिंग सेट्स जो थे वे लाइट डीजल के न मिलने की वजह से बन्द रहे और उससे फसलों को नुकसान पहुंचा ?]

सरदार इक़बाल सिंह : तक़रीबन 30 परसेंट जो लाइट डीजल का कंज़म্পशन है वह किसानों के या फार्मर्स के पम्पिंग सेट्स के लिये है और 70 परसेंट जो कंज़म্পशन है वह दूसरी इंडस्ट्रीज और पावर हाउसेज के लिये है। लेकिन किसानों के लिये डीजल आयल की ज्यादा सप्लाई की कोशिश की गई है और उनको जितना पहले दिया जाता था, तक़रीबन उतना ही दिया गया है।

سری عبدالغنی : کہا وزیر صاحب فرمائیں گے کہ بچھلے دنوں جب یارس نہیں ہوئی اور ہائی اسپیڈ ڈیزل آئل مہنگا ہونے کے کارن کسان اپنے ٹریکٹروں میں کبروسین آئل اور لائٹ ڈیزل آئل ایک میں ملا کر استعمال کرتے تھے اور کبروسین کی جب کہ بالکل ہی مصیبت تھی پنجاب کو اور اسی طرح نافی اسٹیٹوں کو ریلوے ویگنس کے نہ ملنے کی وجہ سے، تو کیا کسانوں کو اس کی وجہ سے کافی نقصان اٹھانا پڑا اور اگر اٹھانا پڑا تو سرکار اس کے لئے آگے کیا ہدایت برت رہی ہے جس سے یہ کبروسین اور دوسرے جو پروڈکٹس ہیں وہ کسانوں کو مل سکیں۔

†[श्री अब्दुल गनी : क्या वजीर साहब फरमाएंगे कि पिछले दिनों जब बारिश नहीं हुई और हाई स्पीड डीजल आयल महंगा होने के कारण किसान अपने ट्रैक्टरों में केरोसीन आयल और लाइट डीजल आयल एक में मिला कर इस्तेमाल करते थे और केरोसीन की जब कि बिल्कुल ही मुसीबत थी पंजाब को और इसी तरह बाकी स्टेटो को रेलवे वेगनस के न मिलने की वजह से, तो क्या किसानों को इसकी वजह से काफी नुकसान उठाना पड़ा और अगर उठाना पड़ा तो सरकार उसके लिए आगे क्या हिदायत बरत रही है जिससे यह केरोसीन और दूसरे जो प्रोडक्ट्स हैं वह किसानों को मिल सकें ?]

सरदार इक़बाल सिंह : किसानों को देने के लिये बहुत कोशिश की जाती है, लेकिन यह ठीक है कि लाइट डीजल आयल को हाई स्पीड डीजल आयल के साथ मक्स कर के किसानों ने इस्तेमाल किया, ट्रैक्टर वालों ने इस्तेमाल किया और यही बड़ी वजह है कि लाइट डीजल आयल की इतनी कमी आई। उसको मिक्सिंग के लिये जो इस्तेमाल किया जाता है वह नार्मल डिमांड नहीं है, वह ऐबनार्मल डिमांड होती है और उसको जज नहीं किया जा सकता कि कहाँ कितना मक्स किया जाता है और इस लिये लाइट डीजल आयल की कमी हो गई।

سری عبدالغنی : کبروسین کے بارے میں -

†[श्री अब्दुल गनी : केरोसीन के बारे में।]

सरदार इक़बाल सिंह : केरोसीन भी मक्स करते हैं।

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Is the Government aware that because of the acute food shortage so many efforts are being made in all the States and particularly in my State nearly 35,000 new oil pumps working on oil engines have been erected and because of the acute shortage of L.D.O.

the pumps and the oil engines are at a standstill and the standing crops are just getting dry? May I know what efforts are being made by the Government to meet this demand of the State of Maharashtra and also of the other States?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, I should first say that we have been making enough supplies to Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and other States. I have got figures here with me as to how much we have been supplying by way of L.D.O. to Maharashtra. In November 1965 it was 15 thousand tons, in December 25 thousand tons, in January 16 thousand tons, in February 20 thousand tons and for March the allocation is 16,500 tons. The difficulty is that these supplies of which only about 30 per cent. is being consumed by the agriculturists may not reach them, and that is a fact. The pity is that these supplies, the part that is meant for agricultural purposes, that part does not reach the hands of the kisans. Now, as my colleague pointed out, this oil is mixed with kerosene to make High Speed Diesel Oil and there is a big price differential, as much as Rs. 350 or Rs. 400 per ton and people are tempted to adulterate this with kerosene to be used as H.S.D. Some portion of it might have been diverted for this purpose and that might have resulted in this scarcity and shortage.

Again, Sir, I should like to inform the hon. House that in the first nine months of 1965 the average monthly production of L.D.O. was only 57 thousand tons. After that, during the five months from October, 1965 to February, 1966 this production was stepped up to 80 thousand tons and out of this 80 thousand tons almost half the quantity is being allotted to the two States of Gujarat and Maharashtra. Now, Sir, since this has been raised, we have asked an officer of the Indian Oil Corporation to get into contact with the Maharashtra Government and find out whether the supplies reach the destinations, whether the supplies go to the various districts and whether they are properly distributed. We are now taking action in consultation with the Maharashtra Government and if it is found that this oil is not enough, then within the overall supplies available I am prepared to increase the quota also. Then,

Sir, the Maharashtra Government has also introduced the system of giving permits to agriculturists so that they are able to buy these quantities without difficulty. Now, two things have to be done. We have to see that it is not misused, and that is very difficult because there are no rules prohibiting it. Only it leads to greater carbonisation. The users do not worry about it. So, this is one drain which we have to stop. That is why the duty on L.D.O. was raised. When the duty was partially reduced last August, immediately the consumption of L.D.O. went up from 36 thousand tons to 43 thousand tons in one month. So, Sir, we are taking steps and I hope both these States, Maharashtra and Gujarat, which are very keen on it will have their demand satisfied.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know how these supplies of light diesel oil which the Minister has given for 1965 compare with those for 1964, because 1965 was a year when the need was much greater due to drought? How do they compare with those of the previous year?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Fortunately, I have got these figures in my hands. In 1962, the consumption of L.D.O. was 677 thousand tons, in 1963 it was less—636 thousand tons—in 1964 it was still less—591 or 592 thousand tons. Compared with 1964 and 1965, I find that there is a difference because the duty was reduced from August, 1965. So, I have taken the months of August, September and October in 1964 and the same months in 1965. In these three months in 1964 the consumption was 1,19,373 tonnes. This has jumped to 1,76,390 tonnes in the three months of August, September and October, 1965. This is as much as 50 per cent rise in consumption. This has evidently followed the reduction of duty on light diesel oil.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: In spite of all these efforts, still in Maharashtra diesel oil is not available and in that respect we got some wires from Maharashtra. Maharashtra was fortunate enough to get some rains and we hope to get some rabi crop. If this diesel oil is given in time and also if the farmers are able to lift water, we will get rabi crop and Maharashtra will be saved from any further deterioration in the food situation. So, may

I request the hon. Minister to do his best and see that Maharashtra, Gujarat and such famine-stricken places immediately get more quota of diesel oil ?

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH: As already explained, after receiving the representation from the Maharashtra Government and also the representation from the Members of Parliament, we have taken some steps and we have asked our officer to contact the Maharashtra Government and assess their demand. We are ready to give and even give more.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: How much time will it take ?

SARDAR IQBAL SINGH: It is being done even now. Yesterday, he met the Maharashtra Government. This is done even today.

SHRI M. M. MEHTA: Is it a fact that the supply of tin-plates is being stopped to all the oil companies and even the quota of the Indian Oil Corporation has been reduced so that kerosene is not carried to the far ends of the country, especially to the villages ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: This is in connection with kerosene. We have had occasion to go into greater details about kerosene supplies. We have allotted State-wise quotas and we have told the various State Governments about it. We have also allotted quotas to the various companies which should contribute to the State-wise quotas. From March onwards we have made this arrangement and we have also asked the Civil Supplies Departments of the State Governments in consultation with the representatives of the oil companies, including the Indian Oil Corporation, to break this down further into district-wise quotas and see that people even in the rural areas and in remote places get enough supplies of kerosene oil and at the proper price also.

SHRI M. M. MEHTA: This is about kerosene oil. What about the question of tin-plates ? How will it be carried ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The hon. Member put the question about tin-plates

also. I went into this question and I was told that they were not getting tin-plates due to shortage of foreign exchange. That is one difficulty. Another point is, putting kerosene in the tins and sending it in trucks, etc. was causing a greater loss. Now they take it in tank loads and are able to deliver it directly to the dealers. But a certain amount of supply through tins also takes place.

श्री जगत नारायण : हमें इस बात की खुशी है कि वह महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात को काफी तादाद में लाइट डीज़ल आयल दे रहे हैं, लेकिन मे वज़ीर साहब से जानना चाहता हूं कि पंजाब जो कि हिन्दुस्तान की ग्रेनरी है—और इस वक्त कुछ हिस्सा पंजाब का तबाह भी हुआ है—वहां के किसानों को क्यों इग्नोर किया जा रहा है at the cost of other States ? सरकारी इरादों को दिया जाता है और किसानों को नहीं दिया जाता, क्या वज़ीर साहब बताएंगे कि पंजाब के मुताल्लिक क्या कर रहे हैं ?

सरदार इक़बाल सिंह : पंजाब में जहां जहां से कोई लाइट डीज़ल आयल के कहत की खबर आई है, हमने कोशिश की है कि उसकी सप्लाई पूरी की जाय ।

श्री जगत नारायण : हमारे पास रोज़ अखबारों में चिट्ठियां आती हैं...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. We have taken 15 minutes on this question.

*605. [The questioner (Shri Ram Singh) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3636 infra]

OFFERS FROM PRIVATE CONCERNS TO SET UP FERTILIZER FACTORIES

*606. **SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(1) whether Government have received any offer from the Indian or foreign pri-