

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: The hon. Member, instead of asking a question, has really given a long sermon. I may draw his attention to the fact that the question asked by Shri Bhargava was whether any recommendation has been received from a committee of Supreme Court Judges and the reply was also about the recommendations of that committee. The other matters which he referred to are not really relevant to this question.

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Sir, I want to correct a misapprehension of the hon. Member because I do not want it to go on record. As far as the Cabinet is concerned, the members of the Cabinet sit there in alphabetical order.

DE-CONTROL OF FERTILISERS PRODUCED BY NEW UNITS

*210. **SHRI M. C. SHAH:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to decontrol the price, sale and distribution of fertilisers produced by new units licensed upto the end of March, 1967; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the interest of the successful implementation of the fertilizer programme during the Fourth Plan, the decision was taken so as to attract foreign investment.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know what is the difference between the price of fertiliser that is indigenously produced and that imported from outside countries and what is the price charged for fertilisers by the Central pool?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, I may inform the hon. Member that the import prices in several cases are lower than the internal prices.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: What is the difference between the two?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: For instance, we are producing nitro-phosphate in Trombay and we have fixed a price which is just about equal to the import price. In other cases, there is difference in the two prices.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: May I enquire from the hon. Minister whether the new fertiliser plants that at lower prices than the Government will come up will sell the fertiliser price today because the Government price to day is too high. The aim of the new plants should be to see that the prices are brought down from the level at which they are today.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: When more plants are established,—some of them are under construction and some are proposed to be brought about—when all of them go into production, the price of fertilisers is bound to come down to a considerable extent.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Sir, the Minister has not replied to my question regarding price charged by the Central pool. That is one thing. Secondly I would like to know whether any proposal has been received from private sector for establishment of large fertiliser units with modern technology so as to bring down the cost price.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I shall give the prices which the hon. Member wanted. Before that I would like to say that several factors will contribute to the prices being brought down. One is the new technology that will be employed. There has been tremendous improvement in the technology of ammonia making, urea making etc. that the prices are bound to come down. There is also the

economy of scale. We are going to put up factories which will be double the size of the existing factories and that will also be a contributing factor to bring down the prices.

Now the hon. Member wanted to know the price structure, pool price, etc. For instance, in Sindri, for the ammonium sulphate the price that is given to the Sindri factory at the plant gate is Rs. 316 per tonne. The pool price for the same is fixed at Rs. 330 and the import price of the same commodity is Rs. 307.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: After duty or before duty?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Taking into account everything. Then the retention price of urea at Sindri, that is, the price paid to urea at the plant gate is Rs. 582 and the pool price is Rs. 570.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Sir, my second question is not replied to. I asked whether any proposal has been received from the private sector to put up a big fertiliser plant with modern technology.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I thought I answered it. We have received several proposals and all the new factories that will be coming up either in the private sector solely or private parties collaborating with the Government, will be with new technology and they will also be large size factories.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: The hon. Minister stated that if the supply is more, the prices will fall down. The question is whether we are depending on the demand and supply theory for the reduction in price or is there a specific programme with the new factories that will go into production to lower the prices when they start production.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: Lower than the Government price.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The demand and supply position has its effect on prices. For instance, I told you that we are charging a price, which is equal to the import price, for nitro-phosphate just coming out of our factory at Trombay and that is sold at Rs. 75 more, because of transport charges and wholesalers' and retailers' commission, etc. But I am informed that it sells at a much higher price in the market because the commodity is scarce and when there is more demand certainly higher prices are being charged.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The hon. Minister, if I may say so, has confused the issue. Is he aware that the shortage today is of the order of about a million tonnes and even if production is increased, it will not meet our needs? Therefore, even when the production goes up, does he feel that the prices which will be charged from the consumer, particularly in view of the holiday prices, will be cheaper and that the consumer will get it at a price cheaper than what it is today?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The hon. Member is not quite right on facts. He said that the shortage of the commodity is of the order of one million tonnes. It is not the case. We produce about three hundred thousand tonnes, or slightly more, and we import an equal quantity. The demand at present is assessed round about a million tonnes. So, the shortage, at its worst, may be stated to be between two hundred thousand tonnes and three hundred thousand tonnes. Now, two years hence or three years hence the production itself is bound to go up to a million tonnes. The demand also will increase and so even then there will be the necessity to import. So, we will reach a position when we will be more or less equal to the demand. Not only that. As I said, we are going to put up these large-scale factories. New technology is going to be used. All these will bring down the production

—costs and there will be more and more competitive production. All these will contribute to a situation where fertilisers are expected to be available at lesser prices than what they are now.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: At present we are importing large quantities of fertilisers. How do the prices of foreign fertilisers compare with ours and is it not possible to pool together and fix the price, so that the price of the indigenous product may come down?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That is exactly what I have said. The import prices are less in many cases. The prices that we pay to the factories are much more than that. So, there is a pool arrangement whereby we arrive at a calculated price and at that price it is sold to the consumer. That is what I have said.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: The Central Government have decided on several occasions and have declared it as their policy that the fertiliser plants will be in the public sector. May we know when this drift from that policy has been made by the Government? Secondly, may we know whether the Government has decided to take precautions so that there is a regulated system of distribution of fertilisers, so that they should not be beyond the reach of the poor farmer?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: If the hon. Member thinks and implies that there will be less public sector units, it is not so. Even when our programme, as envisaged, is put through, almost two-thirds of the capacity will be in the public sector and only one-third will be in the private sector. As far as distribution arrangements go, we use the co-operative societies, etc. now as the distribution channel. Private channels also will be brought into being. When the onus of distributing fertilisers is thrown directly on the shoulders of

the factories that produce fertilisers, they will make their own distribution arrangements. For instance, the factory at Alwaye in Kerala is now having its own distribution channels. It is conducting its own promotional activities and meets the needs of the farmers much more efficiently than in other places. So, each factory is expected to develop its own distribution channel, study the needs of the farmer in its particular area and cater to that.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया :

क्या श्रीमान को यह ज्ञात है कि फर्टिलाइजर्स की कीमतें भारत में दूसरे देशों के मुकाबिले में ज्यादा है, पाकिस्तान के मुकाबिले में दुगुनी, तिगुनी है और सरकार की जो यह नीति थी कि हम कुछ नुकसान नहीं उठावेंगे और कुछ फायदा भी नहीं उठावेंगे उस नीति के अन्तर्गत चलने के बावजूद भी सरकार की जो ग्राडिट रिपोर्ट प्रकाशित हुई उसके हिसाब से फर्टिलाइजर्स के लिए जो पूल बनाया है उसमें 1957-58 ई० में प्रति मीट्रिक टन 20.1 रु० मुनाफा उठाया गया जो बढ़ कर के 1960-61 ई० में 86.8 रु० हो गया। तो ऐसी स्थिति में क्या अब सरकार ने उस मुनाफे को लेना बन्द कर दिया है या अभी भी और मुनाफा लेने की नीति जारी है ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is true that the pool arrangement has been there over a period. Over a period it is also true that the Central pool has made a profit. This has been brought out in the Sivaraman Committee Report. The profit is about Rs. 43 crores over a period of years. The Central pool was certainly started on the basis of 'no profit, no loss' but really speaking the profit is about Rs. 43 crores. That is true. What is now exactly sought to be done is to change over from this arrangement and leave it to the factories concerned, so that a free market operates and fertilisers are available at a much less price than what it is now.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: Within what period will this country be self-sufficient in the production of chemical manures?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Regarding the question of self-sufficiency, our demand is rising. In the Third Plan we have not done too well. We have to make up for the lapses that have occurred in the Third Plan. So, for some time to come, even at the end of the Fourth Plan, the position will be something like this. The demand may be of the order of 2 to 2.2 million tonnes and the supply will be of the order of 1.7 or 1.8 million tonnes. There will be a gap of about 300,000 to 400,000 tonnes, which will have to be met by imports.

श्री रामकुमार भुवालका : क्या मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि हमारे यहां अभी जितनी डिमांड है, जितना कंजम्पशन है, उसके हिसाब से कितना परसेंट इम्पोर्ट करते हैं और कितना परसेंट हमारे यहां का प्रोडक्शन है ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: If we take the percentage, we import almost an equal quantity. We import as much as we produce now. But the proportion of imports to total demand will decrease in the coming years.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the decontrol of the price of fertilisers has been agreed upon by the Government, firstly, because the Americans insisted upon it and, secondly, because Birlas have entered the fertiliser business?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is not correct to say that somebody has entered into the business and so something has been done. It is not correct to put it that way. This policy has been evolved in the light of these circumstances, namely, our programme of fertiliser production in the Third Plan has not been fulfilled. It has fallen very much behind the

target. So, we have to do something. It is not only the case that our resources are not so vast as to do everything by ourselves and so, we have to take foreign collaboration. Foreign collaboration is needed not only for the sake of foreign money, but also for the sake of learning the technology, which is available only with foreign countries. It is for this purpose that we go in for foreign participation. We have to create certain conditions. One of the conditions is to attract foreign capital. That is one. Another object, at the same time, is to increase the production of fertilisers, increase the availability of fertilisers, so that the prices come down, so that the fertilisers are more easily available and available in time to the farmer.

श्री عبدالغنی : کیا وزیر صاحب

فرمائیں گے کہ نہ چاہتے ہوئے بھی جو انہوں نے کروڑوں روپے کا فائدہ فوٹلائزر سے اٹھایا اور کیونکہ یہ سرکار غریب کسانوں کی سرکار ہے اس لئے وہ اس پر وچار کریں گے کہ وہ تمام کمائی جو تھی اس کمائی کو نہ کر کے فوٹلائزر کی قیمت کم کر کے وہ جو مذافع ہے اس کو بھی اس میں شامل کر کے سستے داموں پر فوٹلائزر پہنچا کرے گی ؟

†[**श्री अब्दुल गनी :** क्या वज़ीर साहिब فرमाएंगे कि न चाहते हुए भी जो उन्होंने करोड़ों रुपये का फायदा फटिलाइजर से उठाया और क्योंकि यह सरकार गरीब किसानों की सरकार है इसलिये वह इस पर विचार करेंगे कि वह तमाम कमाई जो थी उस कमाई को न करके फटिलाइजर की कीमत कम करके वह जो मुनाफा है उसको भी इसमें शामिल करके सस्ते दामों पर फटिलाइजर मुहय्यः करेगी ?]

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir, the question of subsidy also can be considered. It will be certainly kept in mind. As it is, we have not subsidised the farmers, but we have taken something from the farmers.

*211. [The questioners (Sarvashri A. D. Mani and U.S. Duggal) were absent. For answer vide col. 1336 infra.]

REPORT ON THE EXODUS OF MINORITIES

*212. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any report from the Enquiry Committee which went into the causes of the exodus of minorities from East Pakistan has been received; and

(b) if so, what are the findings of the report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know when this Enquiry Committee was appointed?

SHRI V. C. SHUKLA: The Enquiry Committee was appointed on the 8th January last year.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know why so much delay is being made?

SHRI V. C. SHUKLA: There is not much delay. The Committee has to interview a number of people, it has to tour many areas, and it has been doing that work in various places in this country, and we expect that this Committee's report will be available to us within two months' time.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: When it is received, will it be placed on the Table of the House?

SHRI V. C. SHUKLA: After the report is received, we will consider whether it will be placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: What would be the reaction of the Tashkent Declaration, because the Tashkent Declaration contains a clause about this exodus of minorities and forcible eviction of minorities? What would be the reaction of that Declaration on the work of this Committee, on the report of this Committee and consideration by the Government of the report of this Committee?

SHRI V. C. SHUKLA: That will be considered when the Committee's Report is received by us.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The hon. Deputy Minister has stated that when the report is received, he will consider whether a copy of the report will be placed on the Table of the House. This is not fair to the House. When the Government has appointed a Committee and the report is expected, a copy must be laid on the Table of the House. It cannot be left to the sweet will of the Government to lay it on the Table of the House or not.

SHRI V. C. SHUKLA: This is the usual practice regarding Committees which are appointed by the Government. The reports of those Committees are not laid on the Table of the House automatically. The reports which are considered to be suitable for such purposes are definitely laid on the Table of the House. If this is also in the same category, it will definitely be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Who is to decide whether it is suitable or not? It is for the Chair to decide.