

that has been supplied is not drawn on by the Departmental Store and in the evening the money is collected by the bank and the collection is sufficient to meet the requirements of its turnover ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Yes, that is my information also.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH : What is the daily loss which is suffered now ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : There is daily profit. There is no question of daily loss.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Since the Government has come to the conclusion that the Super Bazar is good for the community, not only for sale of goods but for checking the prices also, may I ask him why he is taking so much time and why the 60 Super Bazars which are to come are not coming soon ? He says that the others are coming on but even so, may I know if any will be opened this month ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : When I said 60 Stores, I meant for the whole year by the end of March, 1967. We have had discussions with the State Governments. By the end of September we have planned to open 20, by the end of December another 20 and by March another 20 and that will bring up the number to 60. In this month also we are expecting that Super Bazar will be there and as a matter of fact only three days ago there was other Super Bazar opened in Delhi itself. We are expecting another 4 or 5 in Delhi. It is not that we do not want to do it now. Immediately we would like to do it but the problem is availability of suitable buildings. That is the biggest problem. In Delhi we have partly solved it in one or two areas and we hope within another two months we will be able to open 2 or 3 more but in other areas the same problem is there and it is being sorted out.

*564. [The questioner (Shri N. R. M. Swamy) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3360 infra.]

*565. [The questioner (Shri D. Thengari) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3360-61 infra.]

EX-FACTORY PRICES OF FERTILIZERS

*566. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fertilizer Association of India has been given the right to fix ex-factory prices of fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir, but only for single superphosphates.

(b) 1. There is no statutory control on prices of single superphosphate. Till April 1966 the Government of India had been fixing informally the maximum ex-factory prices to be charged by Superphosphate Factories for single superphosphate after an half-yearly review in consultation with the Fertilizer Association of India as a representative of the Industry.

2. The price formula adopted for these reviews takes into account variations of the weighted average prices of the principal raw materials, namely, rock-phosphate and sulphur and of polythenelined gunny bags in determining the prices. Of late the price of sulphur had been fluctuating widely and the industry faced difficulty in securing adequate supplies of sulphur at steady prices. Consequently the industry represented that the price of super phosphates should be reviewed and revised more frequently and that the Association of the Industry may be permitted to determine and notify fair ex-factory prices for different units from time to time guided by the same principles as were being adopted by the Government of India in determining the variations according to the existing formula.

3. The demand for superphosphate has been rising steadily while production has not increased to the extent necessary. Meanwhile in order to encourage increased production of fertilisers the Government of India has taken a policy decision to remove, as far as possible, controls on the Industry except in regard to maintenance of the quality of the product. This had to be applied to superphosphate manufacture I also.

4. It was accordingly decided that the practice of fixing maximum ex-factory prices of single superphosphate by the Government of India should be discontinued. Instead, the Fertilizer Association of India, in consultation with whom the ex-factory price of superphosphate was being informally fixed till now, will review the prices at fixed intervals and determine fair ex-factory prices to be charged by each unit. The ex-factory price thus determined for each factory will be notified by the Association to the Government of India, all the State Governments and all producer as well as to the public at large from time to time. The Association have assured the Government of India that they will take steps to ensure necessary internal discipline and see that the prices so fixed are given publicity and are followed by all units of the industry.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know whether it is fact that the price of the fertilizer has been increased of late ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : This question relates to the Fertilizer Association of India who are fixing the ex-factory price of fertilizers. I thought the Fertilizer Association of India is fixing for only one type of fertilizer superphosphate. The price of course, has recently been increased and this is because of many other causes involved including wages. That was discussed with the Ministry and no unilateral decision has been taken by the Association.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : In the statement it is not clear whether the price of other varieties of fertilizers has also gone up. They have told of one item, that is phosphate. May I know whether the various other varieties' prices have of late been increased ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : No, we have not increased. As a matter of fact, after the devaluation, because our fertilizer is a natural fertilizer, and the other type which the hon. Member mentions is the result of a pool of imported fertilizers and indigenous fertilizers, therefore, that is the price. Now the import prices have gone up by 53 per cent. We have said that we will subsidise and therefore the price will not go up. The Government is going to subsidise on that account up to Rs. 50 crores. Therefore, there is no increase. There is one thing which I must state very categorically. In the world in the international

market the price for fertilisers is going up because it is a scarce input. It is going up everywhere and in this country also and in this country for an additional reason, that the indigenous production is very scarce and is costlier. Therefore the prices of fertilizers are going up not on account of anything with which we are connected but there is world shortage of fertilizers.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It is referred to in the statement that as far as controls on the industry, are concerned, except in regard to the maintenance of quality, all others would be removed. May I know whether this control removal applies to the price itself ? There was some price fixed for each variety of fertilizer. May I know whether this control over the price itself is being withdrawn ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Regarding superphosphates, that is only one of the many fertilizers. There was no control price and there is no control price even to-day. All that has been recently withdrawn is this. Earlier the Ministry used to formally settle in consultation with the Fertilizer Association of India the price and declare it. Now it is the Association which will settle the price but we are consulted in some cases recently we got complaints from Members of Parliament and the State Governments that there were increase and we therefore called and had talks with them and asked them that the prices should not be increased unilaterally.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : Some time back the Minister stated in this House that in the fertilizer business the Government made a profit of Rs. 83 crores on account of pooling the imported and the indigenous fertilizer. If one compared with the price in Pakistan, it is double than that in Pakistan and the reason given by the Minister was that the Government made a profit of Rs. 83 crores. May I know whether the policy of the Government is that it should not make profit on this business because it is important for agricultural production ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : I do not know which Minister he is attributing this and since I am Minister here in this Department and from what I know of the previous record, no Minister has given any statement here that in one year Rs. 83 crores was the profit from fertilizers. It may be the cumulative figure for 5 or 6 years. At one stage it

was Rs. 40 crores of gain from the fertilizer pool.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Over a number of years.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Yes, over a number of years. Of course that has gone to the Consolidated Fund of India. Since last year and even this year what has been happening is, there has been price revision and as a result the pool lost and there was no gain. Even this year in spite of the revision, we do not expect any gain from the fertilizer pool. If at all we are expecting this to be 'no-profit no-loss' business or some marginal profit or loss. There is no kind of profit.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Since the fertilizer is an essential ingredient in the stepping up of agricultural production, may I know the percentage of the fertilizer disposed of by the Government and by the Fertilizer Corporation of India ? May I also know the extent of rise in the prices during the current year and how it is going to affect the agricultural production as such ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : The distribution of fertilizers of almost all types except the potassic fertilizer is mostly done by the co-operative sector which is about 70 per cent. The balance of 30 per cent is done by the private sector. I mean by the agents of the producers.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया : श्रीमन्, पहले भी शासन की यह नीति थी कि फर्टिलाइजर पर कोई लाभ नहीं उठायेगे, इसके बावजूद भी हमारी सरकार ने 84 करोड़ रु० का मुनाफा, तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कृषि को महत्व देने की बात करने की दृष्टि से क्या हम जिस तरह से पाकिस्तान काफ़ी मात्रा में सबसिडाइज करके दे रहा है और हमारे यहाँ के रेड्स से उनके यहाँ आधे हैं, सीलोन में भी कम हैं, तो उसी मान से हमारे यहाँ अधिक सबसिडी अग्रिकलचरस्टिक्स को देकर उनको ज्यादा इन्सेन्टिव देने की दृष्टि से ही अधिक सबसिडाईज करने का कष्ट करेंगे ?

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : श्रीमन्, यह बात सही है कि पाकिस्तान करीब-करीब 50 परसेन्ट

सबसिडी देकर के किसानों को सस्ता फर्टिलाइजर देता है। यह मामला हमारे यहाँ कैबिनेट तक गया, फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर तक गया, इस पर विचार हुआ कि क्या करना चाहिये और इस विषय पर हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी ने इस सदन में भी और उस सदन में भी उत्तर दिया था और वह उत्तर यह था कि इस पर विचार किया गया कि जो शार्ट इकानामी है, स्केयर्स एकानामी है फर्टिलाइजर की, उसमें अगर सबसिडी देंगे तो उसमें कोई विशेष लाभ नहीं है बल्कि होना यह चाहिये कि फैक्टरी बड़ा कर और इम्पोर्ट करके अधिक से अधिक फर्टिलाइजर लाया जाये। यह ब्यूह है फाइनेन्स मिनिस्ट्री का, प्लानिंग कमिशन का और हमारी मिनिस्ट्री का भी कि इनमें सबसिडी न दी जाय बल्कि अधिक से अधिक इसको किसानों तक पहुंचाया जाय। मैं केवल फैक्चुअल स्टेटमेंट बता रहा हूँ।

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : In the Statement laid here on the Table by the hon. Minister, in paragraph 3 it has been stated :

"The demand for superphosphate has been rising steadily while production has not increased to the extent necessary. Meanwhile in order to encourage increased production of fertilizers the Government of India has taken a policy decision to remove, as far as possible, controls on the Industry except in regard to maintenance of the quality of the product. This had to be applied to superphosphate manufacture also."

Sir, the hon. Minister has already stated that there is scarcity even in the international market and that is the reason for the rise in prices. Sir, in order to check this rise in prices, is the Government considering to put some restriction on the margin of profits, and also to procure all the fertilizers that are manufactured in the country and to distribute them to the farmers, so that they need not face these rising prices.

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : जहाँ तक पूरे फर्टिलाइजर का प्रश्न है, मैंने बतलाया कि कोई तीन प्रकार के फर्टिलाइजर होते हैं। एक नाइट्रोजन फर्टिलाइजर, दूसरा सुपरफॉस्फेट और

तीसरा पोटाश। जहाँ तक नाइट्रोजन फर्टिलाइजर का प्रश्न है, करीब 90 परसेंट के बारे में कहा जा सकता है कि वह गवर्नमेंट एजेंसी से लेकर कोऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी के पूल द्वारा बांटा जाता है और इस साल करीब 9 लाख टन तक बांटा जायेगा। जहाँ तक सुपरफॉस्फेट की पोजीशन है वह वही है जो इसमें दी गई है और करीब 7-8 लाख टन वह भी इस साल बांटा जायेगा। जैसा कि मैंने अपने जवाब में कहा कि मिनिस्ट्री से कंसल्ट करके फर्टिलाइजर एसोसियेशन आफ इंडिया इसके प्राइस डिटरमिन्ड करता है और अब भी वही कर रहा है। जहाँ तक तीसरे किस्म के फर्टिलाइजर का सवाल है, एस०टी०सी० ही इसको इम्पोर्ट करता है और उसके बाद वह प्राइसेज तय करता है और यह चीज उसी के जरिये बांटी जाती है।

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, according to this Statement, till April 1966 the prices of superphosphates containing sulphur were fixed in consultation with the Ministry. Now the Association can itself fix the prices of superphosphates, and the Government of India will accept their decision. Since fertilizers are going to be subsidised by Government, that is, by the tax-payer, may I ask the Minister whether the precaution has been taken by the Government that an official of the Food Ministry would be present at the meeting of the Association which decides to fix the prices of superphosphates so that the official concerned would have an opportunity of analysing the cost structure of superphosphates?

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : इस बारे में शिकायतें आई हैं कि अपने ढंग से उन्होंने प्राइसेज बढ़ा दी हैं। हमने इस बारे में फर्टिलाइजर आफ इंडिया के मेम्बरों से बातचीत की क्योंकि जब भी दाम तय करने का सवाल पैदा होता है तो गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया के आफिसरों की राय ली जाती है। जब उन्हें यह बतलाया गया कि दाम बढ़े हुये हैं और उन्होंने कहा कि हम घटा देंगे।

श्री राजनारायण : क्या माननीय मंत्री जो यह बतलायेंगे कि गोरेखपुर में जो फर्टि-

लाइजर फैक्टरी है उसका इस फर्टिलाइजर एसोसियेशन आफ इंडिया से संबंध है या नहीं?

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : श्रीमन्, अगर यह प्रश्न पेट्रोल तथा रसायन मंत्रालय से पूछा जाये तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know if the Government is in a position to declare that the cultivator will not have to pay more for fertilizers in spite of devaluation subsidy, and other steps that the Government is taking?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Sir, I have said that there is no ill effect on prices because of the devaluation. The Government has already decided to subsidise the fertilizers up to the tune of about Rs. 50 crores, and that is all that is needed. Therefore, because of devaluation there will be no increase in the prices of the fertilizers.

ENQUIRY REPORTS ON AIR ACCIDENTS

•567. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the enquiry reports of the various air crashes involving Indian Airlines and Air India which occurred in 1966 have since been received;

(b) whether the causes of the accidents have been found out; and

(c) whether there was any case of human failure; and if so, whether any responsibility for such failure has been fixed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION (SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH) : (a) to (c) Out of the 6 accidents involving Indian Airlines Corporation and Air India aircraft during 1966, investigation report in respect of accident to Indian Airlines Corporation Dakota aircraft at Tulihal Airfield (Imphal) on 19th February, 1966 has been received. This accident has been attributed to pilot's error. The pilot was asked to show cause why action should not be taken, against him. His explanation has been received and is under examination of the Director General of Civil Aviation.