

†PAYMENT OF FEES IN RESPECT OF
TECHNICAL COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS
WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

97. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount so far paid in rupee, dollar, sterling and other currencies as technical collaboration fees in respect of the foreign collaboration agreements signed since 1950-51; and

(b) what amount still remains to be paid for those technical collaboration agreements?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI):

(a) The information about the remittances made towards technical collaboration fees is available from 1st July, 1955. A countrywise statement giving the remittances made towards collaboration fees for the period 1st July, 1955 to 31st March, 1965 is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha. [See Appendix LIV, Annexure No. 27.]

(b) It is not practicable to give this information as each collaboration agreement has its own duration and the amounts to be paid in future will depend on the actual production, sales and the sales value during the unexpired term of the agreements.

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CALLING ATTENTION TO A
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

ACUTE SHORTAGE OF DIESEL CRUDE OIL
IN VARIOUS STATES

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will now proceed to the next item, Calling Atten-

tion to a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra): Sir, with your permission I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals to the acute shortage of diesel crude oil in the State of Maharashtra and other States.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): Sir, during the last two weeks I have received several requests from Members from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan as well as from the three State Governments for increasing the availability of light diesel oil in these areas. Normally, light diesel oil which is wholly produced in the country, is in very easy supply, and no difficulty has been felt before in meeting all needs. But, owing to the failure of the monsoon this year, greatly increased programmes of lift irrigation have been undertaken by a number of States, and the demand for light diesel oil has suddenly gone up. As soon as this was brought to the notice of my Ministry, steps were taken to organise supplies to the concerned areas, and to increase the production of light diesel oil from the refineries.

In Maharashtra, the average monthly supplies during 1964 were at the rate of 12,700 tonnes. Supplies during the winter months last year were about 12,372 tonnes per month, and during October and November, 1964, they were 9,217 and 12,237 tonnes respectively. As against this, the actual supply during October 1965 has been 17,133 tonnes, that is, an increase of about 8,000 tonnes, and arrangements have been made for the supply of 15,404 tonnes during November, that is, an increase of over 3,000 tonnes. In other words, supplies during October and November this year will be about 11,000 tonnes more than during the corresponding two months of 1964. On the

†Transferred from the 11th November, 1965.

[Shri Humayun Kabir.]

special request of the Government of Maharashtra, the oil companies have been asked to augment supplies in the districts of Sangli, Nasik, Kolhapur, Sholapur, Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Usmanabad, Bhir, Parbhani and Nanded.

The consumption of light diesel oil in Gujarat during 1964 was at an average monthly rate of about 13,000 tonnes. During the winter period from October, 1964 to March, 1965, the consumption was at a higher rate of about 18,500 tonnes. Actual sales during October and November, 1964 were 16,000 and 20,400 tonnes respectively. As against this, supplies during October, 1965 are about 20,000 tonnes, that is, 4,000 tonnes more, and arrangements have been made for the supply of 29,000 tonnes during the current month, that is about 9,000 tonnes more. Thus, the total supply during October and November this year will be about 49,000 tonnes as against 36,000 tonnes during the corresponding two months of 1964.

In Rajasthan, the average sales during the winter months of 1964 were about 2,800 tonnes. As against this we have arranged for the supply of 4,000 tonnes during the current month alone.

We are aware of the need for paying special attention to the supply of light diesel oil to all these States during December and the succeeding months up till February. At the moment, the plan of supplies for December is being formulated and every effort will be made to increase production and improve supplies. We shall continue to do so for the rest of the season.

In spite of the fact that the greater demand for light diesel oil arose suddenly, my Ministry has tried to do its best to increase supplies by stepping up production and by movement from other parts of India. I want to assure the House that a careful watch will be kept from day-to-day

on the situation so that the agricultural operations in the affected areas do not suffer.

The supplies of high speed diesel oil, which is mainly used in automotive engines, are satisfactory in all parts of the country.

I would like to make one correction. There is no shortage of crude oil. The shortage is in respect of light diesel oil. Crude oil cannot be used in any engines although the term is often used in place of light diesel oil.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Sir, the hon. Minister may be aware that because of the drought situation in Maharashtra and several other States serious efforts are being made to make use of every drop of water to protect the present cultivation, and also to have more and more production of foodgrains. Now in Maharashtra State the Government has brought an additional six lakh acres of land under cultivation and five thousand pumps have been distributed to farmers for a very negligible rent. Naturally there is great demand and there is great pressure and I have got before me several cuttings taken from newspapers, and it would not be fair on my part to take the time of the House to read them out. But I can assure you, from the information that I have received and the news up to 17th or 18th of November that, for shortage of light diesel oil, and kerosene, several pumps there are standing still, and the crop is getting dry before our very eyes. May I know, Sir, what arrangements are made to make this available on the spot because, even though the allocations are made, it seems that it has not reached the spot. So may we know what arrangements are made by Government in that respect? Then, Sir, prices have shot up from 70 Paise to 150 per litre; it has gone up much more also. So may we know whether the Government has tightened up its control over the distribution system

through these private companies, or whether the Government is considering to take over the distribution of oil through the State Trading Corporation?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Sir, there are two questions. I recognise that there has been a sudden increase in demand and, obviously, if the demand suddenly goes up, it takes a little time to adjust supplies. We have made the refineries produce more and actually, as I mentioned just now, 11,000 tonnes more have been given to Maharashtra during these last two months, which is practically a month's total supply, and we are trying to see that during December and January these increased supplies are kept up. The second question was about allocation. We shall see that they reach the districts and the District Collectors are informed. The oil companies have been asked to give the information to the District Collectors, about the total quantities supplied per district. The distribution will, however, have to be controlled by the State Governments. The price also will be enforced by the State Governments. It is not possible for the State Trading Corporation to do this work. The State Trading Corporation does not come into the picture at all. The State Trading Corporation deals mainly with exports and imports. Here it is a question of distribution which is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. We shall also see that the State authorities and the district authorities are kept informed.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Is the Government aware that these oil companies, ESSO, Burmah Shell and Caltex, are not giving proper co-operation to the Collectors in some districts—I am aware of some of them not giving proper cooperation to the District Collectors—and if so, what steps are likely to be taken by the Government in this respect?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I have already stated that the whole thing came to our notice only some two

weeks ago. We have given instructions to the oil companies that the information is supplied to the Collector of the district. Then it is for the Collector to see that the distribution is properly made. Once the information about the allocations to the districts is available to the collectors, then I do not think the oil companies can do anything further. The oil companies will have to give them co-operation.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that this diesel oil shortage is affecting agricultural operations not only in Maharashtra but in other States also, and whether he will take equally energetic steps in respect of all the States?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: We will certainly try to meet the requirements and we have actually stepped up the production. We have compelled the refineries to go in for more production of light diesel oil though this is less profitable to them, because it means cutting down production of highspeed diesel oil and some part of kerosene also. These steps have been taken. We have also asked that there should be a general survey of the number of pumps used in the country and we shall try to see that the supplies are equitably distributed. I would certainly appeal to the States that no State should try to get it at the cost of another State, but we should all look at it from the all-India point of view and not from the point of view of any particular State.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN (Maharashtra): As the hon. Minister knows, Maharashtra is in the grip of famine and 95 per cent of the land in Maharashtra is dry. On account of these famine conditions so many thousands of old and new wells are being brought into use and they all require nothing but diesel oil. But your distributors are all private agencies. So may I request the Government to consider the desirability of giving this distribution work to co-operative societies or to the fairprice shops so that these agents cannot take

[Shri Deokinandan Narayan.]
the oil to the black market and sell it at very high rates?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: It is a suggestion which certainly is deserving of consideration. But I would like to tell the hon. Member one thing. This supply has to be made immediately. Unless the diesel oil is available to the farmers within the next two weeks, then even if larger supplies are given afterwards it will not be of much use. If we try to change the pattern at this stage and set up a new arrangement—I am looking at the facts as they are—we will create more confusion and more difficulties. So let us use the machinery which is there. I have actually written to the State Governments. I have written to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Another new development which has come up is, because of the comparatively low rate of duties on light diesel oil, some truck drivers tend to use it. So the Maharashtra Government may consider what is being done by one or two other State Governments and see that the light diesel oil is given to farmers only against specific proof that this is going to be used only for agricultural purposes. If this is done, then there will be no misuse.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN (Maharashtra): The hon. Minister has stated that the demand has gone up suddenly. May I know in this connection how the quotas are fixed for the different States? Is the quota fixed according to the requirements of each State? If so, what is the requirement of Maharashtra and what is the quota given upto now?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Previously I have given the figures. The average consumption in Maharashtra was 12,700 tonnes even during the winter months which are the peak months. And we have increased the allotment and given them 11,000 tonnes more. In Gujarat the average consumption was 18,500 tonnes during the winter months last year and obviously the quota which we have

given has some relation with the average consumption over the last few years.

SHRIMATI TARA RAM-CHANDRA SATHE (Maharashtra): It is true that when the demand increases and the supply is less, then the prices do rise. But will the Government make it a point to compel the oil companies to distribute the diesel oil at the original price without increasing the price when such an extraordinary situation has arisen?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The prices of all petroleum products are governed by definite rules and they cannot be increased legally. No one can charge more and the State Governments have the necessary powers to enforce these prices. But what happens is that sometimes something is done in an underhand manner and that, the hon. Member will agree, we cannot control from Delhi.

श्री उद्धवराय साहेबराय पाटिल (महाराष्ट्र) : महाराष्ट्र स्टेट ने जो पांच हजार आयल इंजिन दिए हैं, उसके लिए उसने सेण्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट को कोटा बढ़ाने के लिए लिखा था; क्योंकि उसका रिक्वायरमेंट बढ़ गया है। अगर लिखा था तो उन्होंने कितना मांगा है, कितना उसको सप्लाई किया गया है, एंडांशनल कोटा ?

दूसरी चीज, डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर्स को अगर डबल प्राइस देते हैं तो आयल मिल जाता है, यह हमारा तबू रखा है। मिनिस्टर्स ने ज्यादा 'अनाज उगाओ' की मुहिम महाराष्ट्र में चला रखी है, इंजिन दे दिए लेकिन आयल नहीं। इस सिक्वेंशन को ठीक करना है और जो डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर्स ले रहे हैं उसको चेक करना है; क्योंकि अगर 15 दिन के अन्दर आयल नहीं मिला, तो 50 परसेंट फूड ग्रेन्स का उत्पादन कम हो जायेगा। तो डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर्स को चेक करने के लिए इस हकूमत ने क्या सुझाव रखा है ?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The second part of the question I have already answered that the State Governments have ample powers to do this. As to the first part of the question . . .

PROF. M. B. LAL (Uttar Pradesh): But are they using those powers?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: That is for the State Governments to decide. I have only requested them to see that the supplies which are made available are properly and equitably distributed and the prices are kept under control. As to the first part, we were not informed before. In fact, the request came to us only about two weeks back.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I shall pass on to the next item.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE COMPANIES (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S) GENERAL RULES AND FORMS (SECOND AMENDMENT) RULES 1965

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR SAHU): Sir, on behalf of Shri B. R. Bhagat I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Company Affairs and Insurance) Notification G.S.R. No. 1570, dated the 18th October, 1965, publishing the Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Second Amendment) Rules, 1965. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5171/65].

THE WEALTH-TAX (SECOND AMENDMENT) RULES, 1965

SHRI RAMESHWAR SAHU: Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of section 46 of the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, a copy of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification G.S.R. No. 1634, dated the 3rd November, 1965, publishing the Wealth-tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 1965. [Placed in Library. See No. 5231/65].

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the following letter dated the 16th November, 1965, has been received from Dr. S. Chandrasekhar:

"I came to the United States of America to do some research as well as to undertake a lecture tour on Indo-Pakistan relations. Therefore I shall not be able to attend the current session of Parliament. Therefore, I shall be grateful if you can grant me leave of absence for the current session.

I shall be returning to India some time in January, 1966."

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Dr. S. Chandrasekhar for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during the current session?

No. hon. Member dissented

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF

- (i) THE APPROPRIATION (No. 5) BILL, 1965
- (ii) THE TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL, 1965

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that under rule 186(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I have allotted for the completion of all stages involved in the consideration and return by the Rajya Sabha of—

- (i) the Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 1965—One hour,
- (ii) the Taxation Laws (Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1965—3 hours 30 minutes.

including the consideration and passing of amendments, if any, to these Bills.