

कर रहा है कि कीमतें ऐसी हो कि चाहे उत्पादक हों, वे इस प्रकार से हों कि जिससे दोनों में से किसी को घाटा न पड़े, वहां दूसरी ओर यह ध्यान दिया जा रहा है कि हम ज्यादा से ज्यादा उत्पादन बढ़ाएं और इसीलिये अभी पंजाब में, माननीय सदस्य जानने होंगे, करीब ५०,००० टन खाद केवल गेहूँ के खेतों में डाला गया, इसलिये कि उसका उत्पादन प्रति एकड़ बढ़ाया जाय। तो हम लोग यह ध्यान जरूर रखेंगे कि कोई भी उत्पादक किसी प्रकार के घाटे में नहीं पड़े और कीमत भी उसी तरह की होगी।

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I know, Sir, the difficulty in the way of the Government taking sampling tests on certain farms to find out the extent of production of wheat?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: We shall try to see how far this suggestion is going to be feasible though, of course, our effort will be to see that something is done.

श्री देवकीनन्दन नारायण : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बनलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो जांचें १९५५-५६ और १९५७-५८ में की गई उनका फल क्या आया ?

श्री राम सुभग सिंह : फल यह आया था कि पंजाब में गैर-सिंचाई वाले इलाके में प्रति मन के उत्पादन में ७ रु० से ९ रुपये पड़ा और उत्तर प्रदेश में गैर-सिंचाई वाले इलाके में ९ रु० से १३ रु० प्रति मन पड़ा था। इसी तरह से सिंचाई वाले इलाके में ९ से १२ रु० प्रति मन पड़ा था। महाराष्ट्र में भी गैर-सिंचाई वाले इलाके में ९ से १२ रु० प्रति मन पड़ा था। तो यह फल था। आप कह सकते हैं १९५७ देर की अवधि हुई लेकिन हम लोग बराबर ध्यान रखेंगे कि किसी प्रकार की कोई गफलत नहीं होने पाये।

श्री जयनारायण व्यास : क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह पता है कि गहूँ के भाव १३ रु० निर्धारित करने के बाद सरसों और तिल उगाने में किसान लोग ज्यादा दिलचस्पी लेते हैं, क्योंकि सरसों और तिल में ३० से ४० रु० मन उनको मिल जाना है ?

श्री राम सुभग सिंह : असल में, माननीय सदस्य को पता होगा कि, २३ रु० जो है यह न्यूनतम कीमत है और उसकी अधिकतम कीमत कोई भी हो सकती है सरसों, तिल और तेल पैदा करने संबंधी अन्य प्रकार के अनाजों का भी उत्पादन करने का जिम्मा खाद्य और कृषि मंत्रालय को है और उनकी भी उपज हम बढ़ाना चाहते हैं, तिलहन जितने प्रकार के हैं उस सब का उपज हम बढ़ायेगे। यदि गेहूँ की कीमत ग्राम बाजार में १६ और तिलहन की कीमत २५ या ३० लगती है, तो उतनी श्रृंखला नहीं होती है। फिर भी उन के सुझाव पर हम ध्यान दे सकते हैं।

ACTION AGAINST PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SELLING SALT AS AMMONIUM SULPHATE

*370 SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what steps the Government of India have taken to detect and trace persons responsible for selling salt as ammonium sulphate to agriculturists, their organisation and network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH): A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

It was brought to the notice of the Government of India in 1961 that Sodium Sulphate was being sold to cultivators in Maharashtra and Guja-

rat under misrepresentation that it was a fertiliser. The State Governments concerned were urged to take immediate steps to have the cases investigated and to bring the culprits to book. Investigation was carried out by the Police and the State Governments took steps to put the cultivators on their guard by giving wide publicity to the injurious effect of Sodium Sulphate, if used as a fertiliser. If any material is sold on an oral representation that it is a fertiliser when it is in actual fact not a fertiliser, the transaction constitutes an offence of cheating and is punishable under Section 420 of the I.P.C. However, the Fertiliser (Control) Order 1957 was also amended to make it an offence if any substance is sold as a fertiliser when it is in actual fact not a fertiliser. Maharashtra Government have reported that no sale of Sodium Sulphate as fertiliser has taken place in that State. Further investigations are, however, still being continued. Gujarat Government reported that three persons were arrested and charge-sheets against them were filed. As the matter is within the purview of the State Governments, the investigations were conducted through their own police.

All the State Governments were requested subsequently to intimate whether Sodium Sulphate or Glaucobers' Salt was being sold as sulphate of ammonia to the cultivators and if so, whether prosecutions had been launched against the persons responsible for the malpractice. Replies received from the State Governments (except for Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir from whom replies are awaited) show that this happened only in Gujarat where action against the culprits is being taken as indicated above.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: May I know, Sir, whether the State Governments seen to be reluctant to take any action in the matter and that is why no charges have yet been framed against the few people who have

been arrested and that a large number of people connected with this operation are still at large?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: The information that we have received indicates that charge-sheets have been submitted against the three persons who were arrested and the case is going on.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the hon. Minister aware that the principal person operating in this matter, about whom he has received letters, still at large and the informant is being given threats of violence and attacks have been made on him already?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: I do not know about threats or violence but some of the persons who were connected with a particular concern, three of them, have been arrested. They were put in jail and later on, perhaps—not perhaps but I am quite definite—that a change-sheet has been submitted. Now it is the concern of the court. There we do not come into the picture.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the hon. Minister aware that this gang is not of two or three persons; it is much larger, and they operate in the name of two or three different firms and the brain behind them is a lady who signs in different names.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: We are after the entire gang. Therefore, we approached all the State Governments to tell us the position in their States. The information that we have received so far has come from all the States barring Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. We will be soon receiving information from there too. The Maharashtra Government has said that there has not been any large scale of sodium sulphate in Maharashtra. But in Gujarat there has been sale of significant quantities and there arrests have been made. The State Government is quite alert to see that the

offenders are taken to task. Here also we have got the Fertiliser Control Order changed with a view to seeing that no other commodity is sold to the farmers in the name of fertiliser and anybody who does like that, and if any hon. Member suggests that a particular person or concern is indulging in the sale of spurious fertiliser, we shall take suitable action against him.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the hon. Minister aware that a question in this matter was asked in the Lok Sabha more than six months ago? The process of taking action seems to be too slow. Is he aware of the great damage that these people do and how widely they advertise this as fertiliser?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: As the hon. Member is himself too well aware, the question was asked in the Lok Sabha and persons were arrested and this case is going on. I can give him full assurance that no sodium sulphate will be allowed to be sold in Gujarat. However big a person he may be, if he wants to sell it and if we come to know about it, we shall certainly take strong action. But as he knows, it is the primary concern of the State Government, because we do not operate there. It is for the State Government to take action. However, I will again draw the attention of the State Government to this matter.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, a suggestion was made from this side of the House about a lady being involved in this matter. Do I understand, Sir, that—if it is a lady—the absence of any action against that lady is a sign of chivalry on the part of the hon. Minister and the Government?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Sir, the hon. leader of the Communist Party himself knows that if there is anybody—even if it is some lady leader—who resorts to any action

which is not desirable, I do not think we will hesitate in taking action against her.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Since the action of the State Government is rather slow, will the hon. Minister consider the question of handing over this matter to the Central C.I.D. or the Central Police for quick and firm action?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Sir, at a time it was thought to refer this matter to the S.P.E. But, as I said, it is State subject and the State Police (C.I.D.) is quite competent to deal with the matter. They have already started action. But if the hon. Member feels that there is something which is not being done, we will again draw the attention of the State Government to it.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: That is what I asked.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: You can tell definitely what is not done and we will do it.

SHRI D. B. DESAI: In view of the serious complaints regarding the sale of sodium sulphate, is the sale of sodium restricted to the firm itself?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: We have already asked all the State Governments not to allow sale of sodium sulphate in the name of fertilizers and we are going to take strong action.

SHRI D. B. DESAI: When the sodium is sold at a particular place in Bombay, may I know whether they have been asked to declare?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: This is a chemical also and we cannot prohibit it if it is sold as a chemical. That is the difficulty.

SHRI D. B. DESAI: May I know how it is sold in large quantities?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Because it is manufactured in large quantities—about 975 tons in Bombay.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: May I know the names of the persons and where they come from and also whether they are Government recognised dealers?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Actually they come from Bombay and Gujarat because the factory is in Bombay and work is done in Gujarat and the names of those against whom proceedings are going on are: Mr. Ram Narayan Poddar, Shanti Devi Poddar and Mr. B. S. Misra.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Do they belong to one and the same firm or are they separate firms?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid we are rather too inquisitive about the persons.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Same firm.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: This being a very important question, I would like to know how many such cases of selling sodium sulphate as ammonium sulphate have taken place in this country so far and in how many States? I would like to know the details.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: As I have said, once we came to know last year that 4 wagons of ammonium sulphate were going to be sent to Jalgaon area and we alerted the State Governments and we came to know that they were later on stopped but in small quantities it was sold there and action was taken. In Gujarat about 175 tons, it was reported, were sold. No action has been taken mostly in Gujarat and now there is no danger because there the State Government is taking strong action.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: To what extent this salt ferti-

lizer was used and, if so, whether any compensation has been paid to the cultivators who suffered due to this?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: That is what I said in reply to the previous question that about 175 tons is reported to have been sold there in Gujarat and if it is not a fertilizer, it does damage certain soil.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: The question was whether it was used. It is a different question. Was it actually used or was it found out before use?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Whenever any farmer purchase anything in the form of fertilizer, he puts it in the field within a week or at the most within a month and so it must have been used and found unsuitable.

QUARTERS FOR TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS AND TICKET COLLECTORS ON CENTRAL RAILWAY

*371. **SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Travelling Ticket Inspectors and Ticket Collectors in the Jabalpur Division on the Central Railway are not provided with residential quarters nor are they getting any allowance as house rent; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know whether all these people have been provided with quarters or paid rent for quarters?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Some have been provided with quarters.