

that when the manufacturers informed them then only were these Viscounts tested again. I would like to know the version of the manufacturers, what reasons they have given for the appearance of these cracks.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: The manufacturers wanted to be cautious and they wanted to warn people who were flying the Viscounts. Therefore they sent their men here.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: Have the manufacturers given any reduction in price as a result of this and have they not sent their own men to examine this also?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I am afraid they have not given any reduction.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon. Minister has said that they do not have that equipment because it is expensive. It is a strange answer. May I know what the cost of that instrument is and whether any equation between the cost of that instrument and the cost of human lives has been made in order to come to the conclusion that this equipment is expensive?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I may say that I am as much concerned with human lives as the hon. Member is. That is the reason why they were grounded as a precautionary measure.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I want to know the cost of the equipment. An explanation should be given here before the House why the Airlines Corporation does not have that equipment. Is it prohibitively costly?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: We are trying to acquire it.

SHRI A. D. MANI: In view of the fact that these cracks have appeared, would the Government consider having periodical checks instead of waiting for six months to have a check of the planes?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: We always check them periodically.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: In view of the fact that there is a discussion now on that point, may I know whether the Government of India is going to buy that instrument now?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: Yes, Sir, we are arranging to buy that instrument.

ESTABLISHMENT OF 'GOBER' GAS PLANT

*158. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government propose to chalk out a scheme to provide cheap equipment to establish 'Gober' gas plant?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): No. It has been decided to establish a few plants at selected Extension Training Centres on a pilot basis, since it was found that this plant is beyond the means and capacity of the ordinary farmer.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether it is a fact that the 'Gober' gas plant is still under experiment or it has been proved that it can be popularised on a large scale?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: The experimental stage is almost over. The experiment was done by the Agriculture Ministry and after we have found that it can be propagated, the work has been entrusted to the Ministry of Community Development and they are doing it. But still it is found that it is uneconomical to the ordinary farmer.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know the minimum price of this 'Gober' gas plant and which State has been able to produce the most inexpensive 'Gober' gas plant?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: The minimum expenditure for the smallest unit is about Rs. 500 and with Rs. 500

a farmer can get about 100 c.ft. of combustible gas. It is supposed to be sufficient for a small family of five members. Bombay, I think, is the one State where some industrialists are able to produce some plants at a cheaper price.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I, with your permission, ask as to what happened to the Hungarian scheme of a similar nature for the use of agricultural waste?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: This question refers to the 'gober'—cow dung—gas plant and agricultural waste comes under a different category and if a separate question is put, I will be able to answer it.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: That scheme also is similar; it is a scheme for the production of cheap gas for the utilisation of the villagers. I am asking what has happened to that particular scheme. If this is expensive, is that not a more practical proposition?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I am prepared to answer it. This is about the 'Gober' gas plant—the cow dung gas plant.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know whether the Government is aware that there is a big livestock farm at Hissar and that a good quantity of gober is going to waste there? Is the Government willing to establish a 'Gobar' gas plant there?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Sir, the Hissar Farm is one of the biggest in Asia. We have nearly 12,000 cows, donkeys and mules there. There is a donkey there in that farm which costs Rs. 60,000.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: A donkey costs Rs. 60,000?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: A stallion to produce mules.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether it is a fact that by means of the 'Gober' gas plant, all the three problems of rural electrification, manure and village sanitation could be solved?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: In fact, if this plant is found to be economical and propagated all over India, much of the cow dung which is now wasted as fuel can be saved and that would help to produce more food in addition to improving the sanitary condition of the villages.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: Apart from the experiment made by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, may I know whether this Ministry has learnt anything from the Vigyan Mandir scheme of the Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs Ministry? This gas plant scheme has been put to test there and it has been found economical. Have they learnt anything from them?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We have our institute which has proved that it is a full success and some institutions have taken it up also and I think the Vigyan Mandir institutions have also taken it up.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know if the Ministry is aware that the Kora Kendra is propagating its plant which costs Rs. 250 per gas plant?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: There they are subsidising that scheme and not only the Kora Kendra but many other institutions also are doing it.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Keeping in view the great usefulness of this plant, may I know if the Ministry is considering to subsidise this plant and to help the farmers?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: The Ministry of Community Development is doing that job, it is not ours.