

PRODUCTION OF AMMONIUM SULPHATE

*403 SHRI N RAMAKRISHNA IYER Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is scope for production of sufficient quantity of ammonium sulphate in the country in view of the paucity of indigenous gypsum and sulphur resources, and

(b) if not, whether Government have planned for sufficient production of alternative synthetic fertilisers?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH) (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

STATEMENT

While it is true that there are no proved sources of sulphur in the country, the deposits of gypsum in Rajasthan and, to a somewhat smaller extent, those in Saurashtra and Kutch offer scope for the establishment of factories for the manufacture of ammonium sulphate

2 The scope is, however, not unlimited. In the first place, all the gypsum available is not of sufficient purity for utilisation in the ammonium sulphate plant at Sindri, which has been designed for high grade gypsum. Future plants for the manufacture of ammonium sulphate will have to be so designed as to be able to utilise gypsum of lower purity, of which considerable reserves exist in Rajasthan. Secondly ammonium sulphate is an expensive fertiliser compared to other types of nitrogenous fertilisers like Double Salt (Ammonium Sulphate-Nitrate) Calcium Ammonium Nitrate, and Urea. For these reasons, Government have decided on the manufacture of large quantities of the other fertilisers mentioned. For instance, the Sindri Expansion Scheme envisages the production of Double Salt and Urea the factories at Nangal and Rourkela will produce Calcium-

Ammonium Nitrate, and the Factory at Neiveli will produce Urea

3 The planning for additional fertiliser factories to be set up during the Third Plan Period will be based on the production of considerably larger quantities of the latter types of fertilisers, in addition to some quantity of ammonium sulphate

SHRI N RAMAKRISHNA IYER It is stated in the statement that there are no proved sources of sulphur in the country and also the scope for getting gypsum is also not unlimited. In view of this, do Government propose to discourage the use of ammonium sulphate as a fertiliser?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH This is a very pertinent question which engaged the attention of the Government for a long time. The new planning is now being based on the production of double salts like Urea and other ammonium fertilisers not involving the use of sulphates

SHRI N RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Some of the factories are now producing ammonium sulphate. Will they be geared up to the production of other synthetic fertilisers in the future?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH As I said, the entire trend will be this. For instance in Nangal in Rourkela, in the proposed establishment at Trombay and even in the expansion at Sindri we have taken care to see that production of double-salts and nitro-salts and various other components of ammonium phosphates takes place and our dependence on gypsum or sulphate is also so cut down to the minimum as to sustain the production of the existing factories and particularly Sindri

SHRI H D RAJAH In view of the fact that sulphur is an important element for these fertilisers is the Government taking any steps to find out geologically whether in this country enough sulphur is available?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH This has also been having a very high priority attention of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel and I am glad to inform the House that we have been lucky in striking a large-scale deposit of iron pyrites though not of pure sulphur at Amjore in Bihar and the NIDC and the Ministry of Steel are thinking of setting up a large-scale plant there in order to extract sulphur from there to be utilized for sulphuric acid and various compounds of sulphur

STUDY OF RURAL INDUSTRIES BY FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
EXPERT

*404 **SHRI V C KESAVA RAO.**
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a Food and Agriculture Organization expert has been deputed to study the rural industries in the country, especially leather industry, and

(b) if so, whether he has submitted any report and suggested methods to improve leather industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
(**SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH**) (a) A Food and Agriculture Organization expert was deputed to Uttar Pradesh for making a study of the leather industry in the state

(b) Yes, Sir

SHRI V C KESAVA RAO What are the other industries which were asked by the Government to be studied by these experts?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH Actually FAO does not deal so much with industrialisation. They are principally an international organization devoted

to the development of food and agriculture but because one of the experts was available for a period of time, we invited him at the instance of the UP Government and he surveyed the leather industry in that State

श्री पां० ना० राजभोज : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बता सकेंगे कि इस सिकाग्रिग को अमल में लाने के पहले सरकार लेदर गुड्स इंडस्ट्री वालों को कमल्ट करेगी ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : सब को हम कमल्ट करते हैं। जहाँ किसी रिकमंडेशन को इम्प्लीमेंट करना होता है, हम सब से पूछताछ करके उसको इम्प्लीमेंट करते हैं।

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN:
What is the purpose of this enquiry and may I know if the Khadi Commission is going to be consulted in this matter?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH. This question is quite different. The hon Member originally asked whether we invited an expert from FAO. As I have said, it is not as if it is a review of the entire industry. But as an expert was available and as the UP State Government wanted to review the leather industry there, we sent him there. It is not as if it is an all-India review. As the hon Member may know, we have recently instituted a panel for leather goods and the development of leather industry and this panel has appointed a sub-committee for going into the entire structure of the hides and skins and tanning industry in this country.

SHRI V C KESAVA RAO May I know whether the expert committee was asked to give a scheme for the full utilisation of leather?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH This was not a specific enquiry.