

**RAJYA SABHA***Tuesday, 26th March 1957*

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS****INVESTIGATION FOR INSTALLATION OF COMPLEX FERTILIZER PLANTS**

\*26. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any investigation regarding the feasibility of installing complex fertilizer plants in the country; and

(b) if so, what is the result of such investigation?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) Not yet.

(b) Does not arise. I would, however, like to add that the Standing Committee on Minerals and Fertilizers of the Ministry of Agriculture is giving its attention to this question of the manufacture of complex fertilizers in the country.

**IMPORT OF RAW MATERIALS FOR VISCOSE RAYON AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO ACETATE RAYON INDUSTRY.**

\*27. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of foreign exchange is spent on the purchase of raw materials like wood pulp, caustic soda, and sulphur required for the manufacture of viscose rayon at present; and

(b) whether any encouragement is given by Government for Acetate rayon industry?

THE MINISTER FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) Precise information regarding the value of each of these imported raw materials used in the

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manufacture of rayon is not separately available as all these raw materials are also consumed by other industries. However, broadly speaking, during 1955-56, a total amount of Rs. 1-47 crores worth of these three raw materials were used by the Rayon industry.

(b) Yes, Sir. Progressive restrictions have been imposed on the types of yarn manufactured in the country and effects are being made to increase the production of acetate yarn in the country. Also, the acreage of long staple cotton for better supply of linters, which is one of the principal raw materials for this industry, is being increased.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that we can produce this acetate rayon with the help of molasses and if we do that we need not import costly things from outside?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That exactly is not the precise information. The main raw material is wood pulp, and that is common for viscose rayon and for acetate silk rayon. It is true that from molasses we can produce alcohol and from alcohol we can produce acetate acid for acetate silk manufacture. However that does not make the acetate rayon cheaper than the viscose rayon.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not the practice in the U. S. A. and other countries which do not possess the other raw materials to produce acetate rayon?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Sir, as a matter of fact, one is not a substitute for the other. Both have distinct qualities of their own. For certain varieties of fabrics viscose rayon is better and for certain other varieties of fabrics acetate rayon is better.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact, Sir, that for the making of viscose rayon we require raw materials which we have got to import and for

producing acetate rayon we do not require that much of import, at least not to that extent?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As I have just explained, that is not so. As a matter of fact, about 60 to 70 per cent, of the raw materials are common to both varieties. Some chemicals have to be imported. Referring to caustic soda and sulphur which the hon. Member seems to have in mind for the manufacture of viscose rayon, they are required only for viscose rayon and not for acetate rayon.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: In his answer, the hon. Minister said that\* linters will be required for acetate rayon. Is it possible to get all these linters from short staple cotton or only possible to get them from long staple cotton?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Short staple cotton linters are not as useful as long staple cotton linters. So we are trying to get the production of the correct variety of long staple cotton increased in the country.

#### **OUTPUT AND IMPORT OF STEEL IN THE SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN PERIOD**

\*28. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the expected output of steel in each year of the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) what is the extent of production in each of these years from each agency; and

(c) how much steel is expected to be imported during the Plan period?

THE MINISTER FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a), (b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix XVI, Annexure No. 10.]

SHRI M. VALIULLA: The statement gives the quantities to be pro-

duced and also the imports that we will be having, and I find that for the year 1958-59, the two together come to only 21,10,000 tons and during the succeeding and also the preceding years the total is more. May I know whether in that particular year our consumption is to be less?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: These are figures of indigenous production and not of consumption. Actually our consumption of steel has steadily increased from 18 lakh tons to 3.2 lakh tons. What the hon. Member has pointed out is really the production in 1958-59 and the imports, which together come to about 21 lakh tons. The production as a result of the steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bhilai will increase to 2-6 million tons in 1959-60 and to 4-2 million tons in 1960-61.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: I will make myself clear, Sir. The hon. Minister in his Statement has stated that in 1958-59, the production will be 15,10,000 tons and the imports will come to 6,00,000 tons. Together, they come to 21,10,000 tons. This is less than the figures for the preceding and the succeeding years. You import only six lakh tons in 1958-59. How are you going to meet all your requirements that year?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: As the House is aware, we are short of foreign exchange and we cannot afford to spend all our foreign exchange on the import of steel. So for the next 18 months, we have to economise in the utilisation of steel. Of course, when we produce our own steel, then naturally the consumption will step up very much more.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: In the statement, it is stated that in 1960-61, the last year of the Plan period, the production from Government Steel Plants will amount to 16,70,000 tons. What is the break-up of this figure of production from the Government Steel Plants?