

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, the 8th May, 1962/18th Vaisakha 1884 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair].

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Use of Methane Gas in place of Coal

*497. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has demonstrated the technical feasibility of using methane gas derived out of cow dung etc. for propelling a 5 h.p. engine;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to popularise its use for industrial purposes in place of coal; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken therefor?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) to (c). It has been found to be technically feasible to use cow dung gas for propelling a 5 h.p. engine. This has been done only as a measure of demonstration; the experiment has not reached a stage, when the question of advocating its use for industrial use in place of coal, or even putting it on trial on a commercial scale, can be considered.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Since there is such a shortage of coal, may I know whether Government will give more attention to the increased use of methane gas?

Shri S. K. Patil: No doubt, Government will keep it in mind, but its feasibility or practicability has not been demonstrated beyond doubt as to whether it will be a proper replacement for either coal or any other fuel.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Is it a fact that about two years back or so an expert from a foreign country (European country) was called for guidance in making better use of cow dung, more particularly for getting gas out of it?

Shri S. K. Patil: If it is commercially feasible, it will be done. About 100 cft. of gas could be produced from about 80 to 90 lbs. of cow dung, which is the average need of a family for lighting and fuel needs. But, then, it has got to be made commercially practicable so that whatever machine we produce will be within the reach of a family to buy and operate economically. Therefore, there is a great future for it.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether it is a fact that *gobar* plant has been in use in various blocks for the last six or seven years?

Shri S. K. Patil: It has been used only for demonstration purposes. When it is commercially possible to do so, we will use it extensively.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: What are the difficulties in the way of the Government in making it available for commercial use?

Shri S. K. Patil: First of all, its potentiality for commercial use must be proved beyond doubt. There is no difficulty in Government's way.

Shri K. R. Gupta: What is the main difficulty or hurdle in its becoming available for commercial use?

Shri S. K. Patil: We have to take into account the price factor also, because if we produce a machine which is really so costly that it cannot be within the reach of an ordinary farmer's family, then it is no use. It may produce gas and ultimately through dynamo may even produce electricity, but the question is whether it is within the means of the farmer.

श्री ज० ब० सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि यह मशीन जो अभी एक्सपेरिमेंटल स्टेज में है उस के बनाने की क्या कास्ट पड़ रही है ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : जो पहले गैस प्लान्ट्स बने थे उन की कास्ट शायद ३०० या ३५० रु० थी लेकिन धीरे धीरे उन की बनने की कास्ट बढ़ जा सकती है। अगर इस तरह से वे बनते रहे तो सब्सिडी वगैरह देना पड़ेगा। सब्सिडी चन्द लोगों को, यानी १०० या २०० आदमियों को देना हो तब तो ठीक है, लेकिन मिलियन्स को सब्सिडी देना सम्भव नहीं है। इसलिये अभी एक्सपेरिमेंट हो रहे हैं कि कैसे उस की कास्ट कम हो जाय और मास प्रोडक्शन हो जिस में कि वह चल सके।

Som hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Nothing more can be extracted from cow dung at present. Next question.

Hindi in P. & T. Department

*498. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of monetary incentives for the staff of the P&T Department to learn Hindi has been finalised;

(b) if so, important features of such a scheme; and

(c) the extent to which the scheme has been implemented?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) to (c). The Posts and Telegraphs Board has approved, in principle, that textbooks should be supplied free for use in Training classes and Cash Prizes should be awarded on the results of tests held by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The details are being worked out in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Finance.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know when it has been put into force and the extent to which it has been possible for the staff to learn Hindi in this department?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Many of the administrative offices have been implementing this now.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the P. & T. Department is also likely to engage some teachers, as in the Defence and other departments, to enable its employees to learn Hindi?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think under the scheme of the Home Ministry some teachers are employed for this purpose.

श्री प्रकाशचौर शास्त्री : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि हिन्दी प्रशिक्षण योजना के अन्तर्गत डाक तार विभाग के भी कुछ कर्मचारियों को यह प्रशिक्षण दिया गया है ? यदि हाँ, तो उन की संख्या कितनी है और क्या उस से व्यावहारिक लाभ भी उठाया जा रहा है ?

जगजीवन राम : प्रशिक्षण तो दिया गया है, कितने लोगों को अभी तक मिल चुका है यह आंकड़े तो इस वक्त मेरे पास नहीं हैं। लेकिन जिन को हिन्दी सिखायी जाती है न को हिन्दी सीख लेने में लाभ तो होता ही है।

Shri Thimmaiah: May I know whether it has been made compulsory for the administrative officers to pass