

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Is it a fact that...

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member has explained and explained and still this is the answer

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The hon Minister must reply

Mr. Speaker: He has said that he understood the question thoroughly and given the answer What can I do?

Heavy Electrical Goods

*628. **Shri R. S. Lal:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state

(a) whether the Planning Commission has approved higher targets for the production of heavy electrical goods, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra):
(a) Yes, Sir

(b) A statement indicating the revised targets is placed on the Table of the Sabha [See Appendix II, annexure No 67]

Fertilizers

*629. **Shri Ramakrishnan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether the present fertiliser production in India is sufficient to meet the country's requirements, and

(b) if not, what is the estimated quantity to be imported in 1957-58?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):
(a) The present demand for phosphatic fertilizers is fully met from indigenous production. The installed capacity for the production of nitrogenous and potassic fertilizers falls short of country's requirements

(b) The quantities required to be imported during 1957-58 on the basis of the estimated demand are as follows —

- (1) Nitrogenous fertilizers containing 16 lakh tons of nitrogen (equivalent to 8 lakh tons of ammonium sulphate)

(u) Potassic fertilizers—about 20,000 tons

Shri Ramakrishnan: May I know whether any Governments have agreed to deferred payment or whether barter agreements have been entered into?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): If the hon Member refers to deferred payments for capital goods, yes, Sir. As far as fertilizers are concerned, there is no deferred payment

Shri Ranga: Why is that the price of fertilizers has been increased by about 20 or 30 per cent during this year? Is there no such system as equalisation of price for fertilizers produced in India and purchased from outside?

Shri Manubhai Shah: If the hon Member refers to a question which has been skipped over, he will find that we have given the reasons. The prices in some of the coke ovens went up and there was some failure also of production. But we had pooled the price of ammonium sulphate which is sold at the same price throughout the country

Shri Ranga: But is it not a fact that the Government wanted to subsidise the sales of fertilizers for the Grow More Food Campaign?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The Agriculture Ministry has not given up that policy. In some cases, where they felt that the needs of the farmers have been met by current prices, there is no need for subsidy. In others where the prices of fertilizers are considered high, then, we had given the subsidy

Shri Ranga: Are we to understand that the increase in prices of fertilizers was an All India policy or only in certain areas?

Shri Manubhai Shah: All India policy

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Minister just now admitted that the price of fertilizers has gone up by 20 per cent due to the failure of production. May I know why the production programme of fertilizers has failed?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I should say there was a slight over-statement in the hon Member's question and so I did not oppose it. There has been no 20 per cent rise at all. The import price is higher by 20 per cent than the internal price. Both have been pooled.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Then, what is the actual increase in the price of the fertilizer?

Shri Manubhai Shah: About 10 per cent.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: But that is wrong because in the rural areas the fertilizer is selling about Rs 39 and that is much more.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is the report appearing in the newspapers, that the Government will not be able to supply that much fertilizers as is required by the country, true?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As already indicated, there is a shortage of foreign exchange and all the 800,000 tons of ammonium sulphate required by the farmers and the agriculture department are not possible to be imported today. We are trying our best through bilateral agreement to supply as much as possible—almost 75 per cent of the requirements.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Location of Oil Refinery

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S.N.Q. No. 2. {
 Shri Hem Barua:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
 Shri P. K. Deo:
 Shri Supakar:
 Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri Naushir Bharucha:
 Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:
 Shri Amjad Ali:
 Shri Rup Narain:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has since been taken regarding the location of the fifth oil refinery to be set up by the Assam Oil Company;

(b) if so, the site recommended;

(c) whether a copy of the Experts Committee report on the location of the oil refinery will be laid on the Table of the Sabha;

(d) whether Government have called for a project report for the proposed Oil refinery so far as Gauhati is concerned, and

(e) if so, what factors Government would consider as suitable to make the final decision of the location of the refinery?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b) No Oil Refinery is to be set up by the Assam Oil Company.

(c) The report of the Refinery Location Committee is still under examination of the Government and a copy of it will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in the due course.

(d) Government are making arrangements for getting a preliminary project study of the proposed Oil Refinery and according to our latest decision this study will be undertaken for Gauhati also.

(e) All such factors will be taken into consideration as would go to establish the first national refinery on a sound footing.

Shri Hem Barua: In spite of the fact that the Minister has said that there is no proposal for the Assam Oil Company to start an oil refinery there—which I did not put in but which was put in by the Notice Office ...

Mr. Speaker: Hon Member is not the only hon. Member who tabled this question. We have consolidated it.