

**SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA:** Mr. Speaker, I have some supplementary questions.

In the context of the kerosene allocated and supplied, if I quote some figures from Maharashtra, West Bengal and Gujarat, it will be seen that during January 1980, when the population of Maharashtra was 5 crores and 4 lakhs or so, the supply of kerosene was 74,730 tonnes whereas in West Bengal, when the population was 4,043 lakhs and odd, the kerosene supplied was only 32,000 tonnes. And, if I take the figure for Gujarat—of course, all these figures are according to 1971 census—it had 2.67 crores of population but the kerosene supplied was 33,854 tonnes. So, you find there is some anomaly in the supply. My question is: What is the criteria in respect of fixing the kerosene quota for the States? Is it uniformly followed all over India. If not, why?

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:** I would like to submit that the supply of kerosene oil is not on the basis of the population. It is on the basis of the supply or consumption of the previous year. That is the criteria. Whatever we had supplied during 1979 which was a normal year—there was no shortage at that time—taking that into account we are supplying to the States much more than we had supplied during 1979. The hon'ble Member is trying to make a point that we have been supplying more to Gujarat and Maharashtra and not to West Bengal. That is not so. We are supplying less to Gujarat and Maharashtra and more to West Bengal.

**SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA:** Whether the Central Government's policy in respect of actual requirements, allotment and supply of kerosene oil crisis, non-availability, shortage, high prices, black-marketing etc?

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:** Sir I have already given in the supplementary note the details about the allocations for different States. It has not been possible to supply the kerosene oil to that extent because of difficulty in Barauni and other refineries. What-

ever we have allocated we have not been able to supply but I can assure the hon'ble Member that there was no shortage during this period.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Sir the West Bengal government has estimated its monthly requirements at 40,000 tonnes per month. In view of what the Minister has said, could we take it that they do not consider this estimated requirement of 40,000 tonnes of the State Government to be correct? Are they suggesting that this is an over-estimate because I find their allocation every month from January to May has been considerably short of 40,000 tonnes. Sometimes the shortage is to the tune of 12,000 tonnes and sometimes it is 6,000 to 8,000 tonnes. Is it because of shortage of kerosene due to trouble in Barauni or do they consider the estimate of the West Bengal government to be unjustified?

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:** They have said that they require 40,000 tonnes. I think they have worked out this requirement on the basis of population whereas our supply is not based on the basis of the population but on the basis of consumption that was during 1979. So far as West Bengal is concerned, their consumption and sale in the corresponding period June 1979 was 24,941 tonnes whereas we have allocated to them 25,790 tonnes. It is 3.4 per cent more than what we had supplied. (*Interruptions*).

I have made it very clear that 1979 was a normal period and we have been supplying more than the quantity consumed in 1979.

#### **Delay in Execution of Fertiliser Projects**

\*128. **SHRI CHITTA BASU:**  
**SHRI CHANDRABHAN**  
**ATHARE PATIL:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in the execution of four giant-gas based fertilisers projects in Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) the effects thereof; and

(d) steps taken to expedite the execution of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (d). The appointment of consultants for the construction of the ammonia plants of the four gas-based fertilizer projects being set up in Maharashtra and Gujarat is still to be finalised. After the present Government took office, it was decided to have a second look at the selection of the contractor for the ammonia plants of these projects. A Committee of experts was, therefore, set up to assess the relative merits of the foreign firms who had earlier submitted bids for this consultancy. The Committee's report has been received on the 13th June, 1980.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: As you know, the Fertilizer (Planning and Development) Corporation is a public sector agency. It has got expertise in gas-based fertilizer plants. My pointed question is this. What is the reason for not associating this corporation and seeking or going in for the collaboration or cooperation from large number of foreign firms? When our own technology is available why are we going in for the foreign collaboration?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: So far as technology that is available is concerned,

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I want to know why this Fertilizer (Planning and Development) Corporation has not been associated with the project preparation itself.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: So far as technology that is available is concerned, these four plants, two at Thal and two at Hajira, these are very big plants, large-sized plants, with a capacity of 350 tonnes per day. These are gas-based plants and by utilising Bombay High we are thinking of setting up

ten fertilizer plants. Therefore we thought that it is better to import the technology. Now the question is whether the technology that is already available in the country is adequate or not. Sir, this question has been gone into by the Expert Committee. I will tell you the views of the Expert Committee. The views of the Expert Committee are that India does not possess the process know-how and basic engineering package for setting up a complete ammonia and urea plant. Whether it is a plant of a size of 600 tpd. 'ammonia or 900 tonnes per day ammonia or 1350 tpd.' ammonia, the basic process know-how has to be imported. Therefore it was decided to import the know-how. Even countries like Russia, China, GDR and developed countries in the West have to import the know-how from process licensors for setting up ammonia plants. He asked another question which I will answer. As far as the basic process package is concerned the P and D of FCI have an arrangement with TECHNIMENT (the engineering division of MONTIEDISON) for both the MONTECATINI high pressure and low pressure synthesis of ammonia. This process is not the best in the world and has been tried out in large plants. So, this is what the expert Committee has pointed out. So far as the import of technology is concerned and services are concerned, import of technology and services are restricted to what is not available within the country and they would be such which will strengthen the P and D organisation to achieve self-sufficiency and self-reliance. The contractual arrangement proposed would also ensure that there is a complete transfer of technology for use in indigenous plants. So far as associating planning and development design is concerned, it is proposed to ensure that from the conception of design, procurement, inspection, erection and commissioning, Indian engineers from FPDIL and the owners' organisation will be completely involved.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I want one clarification. There is one more specific point.....

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask one more supplementary.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: He mentioned about the report of the Expert Committee. In the body of his reply it is stated that the committee's report was received on 13th June 1980. Does she refer to that or to the earlier committee's report?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I referred to the earlier one, before decision to set up four plants at Thal and Hazira were taken. At that time the question arose whether we should use indigenous technology or import technology from outside. Several committees had been set up; the experts went into this question and they came to the conclusion that whatever technology we have today in the country is not adequate, because they are all large size plants and on the basis of the technology, we are going to set up another six plants. They said that it would, therefore, be in the interest of the country to import technology to the extent that is not available in the country.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: According to the revised estimated of the availability of gas, there is a proposal to set up about ten gas based fertiliser plants in our country. There is a controversy between the coastal location and inland location. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the locations for the remaining six gas based fertiliser plants have already been decided and this controversy resolved? If so, what are the locations for these six gas based fertiliser plants?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: When the Government came to know that there is plenty of gas available in Bombay High, the Government appointed an expert Committee, Satish Chander Committee, to ensure proper utilisation of it. That Committee went into this question and they reported that it is possible to set up ten fertiliser plants by using the

Bombay High gas. Out of these ten plants, location has already been decided about four. As regards the location for the remaining six, the Committee has indicated that one fertiliser plant should be established in Madhya Pradesh, one in Rajasthan and four beyond Aligarh. They have not said the places. Most probably, it would be in U.P.

SHRI CHANDRABHAN ATHARE PATIL: What are the reasons for the Government to have a second look at the selection of contractor for the ammonia plants of those projects? Who were the members of the said committee of experts? What are the findings of the said Committee?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: After the new Government took over, they decided to have a second look, because these are large size plants and in order to complete these projects not less than Rs. 1500 crores are going to be spent. So far as technology is concerned, consultants are concerned, we decided to have a second look and appointed an expert committee. They have gone into the details of the offers that have been made by different firms. They have submitted a report only three days back, that is on 13th June and I do not know the details. The Committee—Shri B. B. Singh is its Chairman—has submitted the report and made their recommendations. These recommendations are being examined and a decision will be taken very soon. And, if necessary, that will be made known to the Members also.

SHRI A. T. PATIL: Is it a fact that slackening of the work recently in respect of the Thal project was due to the second thought of the Government in respect of importing technology and not due to any second thought in respect of location of the plant?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: So far as the location of the plant at Thal is concerned so much has appeared in the press that the Government is thinking of shifting it to some other

place, but there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** In the execution of fertiliser plants—it is particularly so in Maharashtra—due care is not taken for anti-pollution safeguards. In fact, Maharashtra has suffered because of this. I would like to know whether the committee has examined this question of pollution also. Would the Minister lay the report of the Committee on the Table of the House for Maharashtra M.Ps. to be satisfied that it has done a good job?

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:** This is a decision not taken by the present Government, but by the previous Government. I can only assure the hon. Member that before taking the decision all factors have been gone into, and only then they have taken a decision. For the information of the hon. Member, I would say that no Member of Parliament, barring Shri Subramaniam Swamy, has approached me for shifting. In fact, he has also not approached me; but they have not opposed the selection of the site so far.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** I have asked him to lay it on the Table of the House. I will quote rule 370. It says as follows:

"If, in answer to a question or during debate, a Minister discloses the advice or opinion given to him by any officer of the Government or by any other person or authority, he shall ordinarily lay the relevant document or parts of document containing that opinion or advice, or a summary thereof on the Table."

He has been quoting from the Expert Committee Report. So, he has to lay all the documents on the Table of the House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have noticed that word "ordinarily".

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** What is extraordinary about this re-

port? It is not a national security matter

**MR. SPEAKER:** It is up to them to decide.

श्री मती साईं द्वार० चौधरी : अब रिपोर्ट या चुकी है, तो गुजरात में संयंत्र रखने के लिए सरकार जल्द से जल्द कदम उठायेगी क्या ?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Q. No. 130—Shri Krishna Chandra Halder

**Shifting of Head Office of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. from Delhi to Calcutta**

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\*130. **SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:**

**SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA:**

Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a cell was set up in Calcutta in July, 1979 exclusively for executing the shifting of Head Office of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited from Delhi to Calcutta; and

(b) the reasons why the Head Office of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited has not been shifted from Delhi to Calcutta as yet in spite of the decision of the Government of India in favour of the shifting?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL):** (a) A cell was set up by Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation in July, 1979 in their Haldia Division Office at Calcutta to look after work connected with the shifting of their head office from Delhi to Calcutta. Apart from the work relating to shifting, the staff attached to the cell, consisting of 2 persons, is also utilised for Haldia Division's work.

(b) The Corporation have been looking for suitable accommodation for their office. Meanwhile, pending