

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What proviso, if any, has the Government made for Maj. Bahuguna's family ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Maj. Bahuguna was insured for Rs. 30,000 during this expedition. That money would come. Then, for his commissioned service, his family will be entitled for the following benefits according to the Government rules. First, family pension to the widow of Rs. 220 per month; then, children's allowance of Rs. 40 per month per child; thirdly, educational allowance of Rs. 40 per month per child beginning from the age of 5 and ending at the age of 18 years; family gratuity of Rs. 6,500. These are the benefits which will be available to the family of the late Maj. Bahuguna. Apart from this, the Indian Mountaineering Foundation has awarded posthumously a gold medal for distinguished mountaineering to Maj. Bahuguna.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Shortage of Kerosene Oil in Orissa State

1. **SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of kerosene oil in Orissa state for the last two months;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure adequate supply of kerosene oil to Orissa by now to relieve the common-man from his hardship ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DAIBIR SINGH) : (a) Reports of shortage of kerosene oil have been received from the State Government during May, 1971 only in respect of the Balasore, Bhadrak and Mayurganj area of north Orissa, served by the oil companies' depots at Balasore. There have been no complaints from the rest of the State.

(b) Extensive thefts of overhead traction wires and other equipments have resulted in occasional reductions in rail transport capacity

ex-Calcutta. It has, therefore, not been possible to despatch the needed quantities of kerosene by rail from Calcutta, the normal supply source for this area. However, to the extent feasible, substantially increased supplies have been made to the State from Vishakhapatnam, the other source of supply for kerosene and oil products to the State.

(c) The following steps have been taken :-

(i) The oil companies have advised their agents to uplift maximum possible kerosene by road from their storage depots and installations at Calcutta.

(ii) The State Government has been requested to induce the agents to maximise road upliftments of kerosene from Calcutta.

(iii) The State Government has been requested to distribute the available supplies of kerosene equitably and to ensure that it is sold at the controlled price fixed by the local State officials under the Essential Commodities Act.

(iv) Dependence on rail transport for the movement of kerosene from Calcutta is being progressively brought down by maximising the utilisation of the Haldia-Barauni-Kanpur pipelines.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : The hon. Minister just now stated that the report of acute shortage of kerosene oil in the State came to the notice of the Government of India only towards the end of May. But this shortage started in April, and in May it was quite acute. What was the quota allotted to Orissa in February-March and to what extent supply was adhered to. What is the actual controlled price fixed for Orissa so far as kerosene oil is concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : We came to know of the shortage from the State Government and various complaints that were received in the ministry, and the hon. Member also spoke to me about this shortage. Particularly after he spoke to me, I asked the officers

of the IOC to go to the spot and discuss it with the State officers. Then we have come to know about the entire position. About the monthly supply to Orissa, I should like to point out that the monthly supply to the State has not actually gone down. We have tried to supply kerosene from Visakhapatnam in order to cater to the needs of the Orissa State. It is true that Balasore depot was being served from Calcutta but on account of railway difficulties there was shortage of kerosene in the Balasore depot. That particular region alone experienced some difficulties, not the other areas. The kerosene control order is common to all the States; freights and other charges have to be added to it.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the shortage has actually been overcome and whether people are really getting it as they used to get it in February and March? Recently the Government had taken up a new distribution system so as to improve the availability of kerosene in North Bengal and Bihar and Assam and to eastern U. P. which areas also were experiencing shortage. Orissa has been excluded from this new system. Are they going to transport more Kerosene to Orissa so that the other parts of Orissa also would not suffer? Acute shortage is not restricted to Balasore area only.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Artificial shortages in kerosene are created on account of two factors. One is that kerosene is being mixed with high speed diesel oil because of the high level of difference in duty among them and secondly by some unscrupulous dealers. Therefore a new system was devised. The dealers were asked to take from the tank. This system functioned in Maharashtra very well. The authorities in Orissa accepted this scheme but later on they said that they would not take up the scheme. We are actually negotiating with them. In order to overcome difficulties of traction we are actually moving kerosene through the pipeline from Haldia to Barauni: it will reach Barauni by tomorrow. We shall be able to overcome the difficulties of both Bihar and Orissa on account of this method. We are also taking up the pumping of kerosene from Barauni to Kanpur. Thus the difficulties of traction are being overcome.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : The retail price of

kerosene is going up day by day compared with the wholesale prices. What steps are the Government going to take to put an end to this sorry state of affairs?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : As far as the distribution and price control of kerosene are concerned, that has to be imposed through the State Government machinery, and we have taken it up with all the State Governments that they should strictly see to it that the kerosene Control Order is strictly enforced and there is no blackmarketing in it.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मिट्टी के तेल की कमी सब जगह है—हमारे सूबे में भी है। मैंने बिहार में मिट्टी के तेल की कमी के बारे में प्रश्न पूछा था, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से वह अनस्टांड क्वेश्चन बना दिया गया। वहाँ एक बोतल की कीमत डेढ़ रुपया वसूल की जा रही है। इस स्थिति में गरीबों की क्या हालत होती होगी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार मिट्टी के तेल की प्राइस को ठीक करने के लिये कौन से उपाय कर रही है।

श्री पी० सी० सेठी : मैंने बताया है कि प्राइस को कंट्रोल में रखने का उपाय यह है कि कैरोसीन की जितनी आवश्यकता है, उसके हिसाब से हम अपने देश में कैरोसीन पैदा करें और जो कमी रहे, उसको इम्पोर्ट करके पूरा करें। कैरोसीन का इंडिजिनेस प्रोडक्शन 1967 में 20 लाख टन था, जबकि इस समय वह 29 लाख टन है। इससे जाहिर है कि देश में कैरोसीन का प्राडक्शन बढ़ा है। इसकी कमी को पूरा करने के लिए हमने 1967 में 4,48,000 टन इम्पोर्ट किया और इस साल 4 लाख टन इम्पोर्ट किया। प्राडक्शन और इम्पोर्ट दोनों बढ़ाये जा रहे हैं। ट्रैक्शन या रेलवेज की वजह से डीपोज में जो कमी है, उसको दूर करने के लिये जो उपाय किये जा सकते हैं, वे किये जा रहे हैं। कैरोसीन की सप्लाय का नया तरीका अपनाया जा रहा है। इस बारे में यह शिकायत आई है कि अगर मरचेंट्स को सीधे वैगनज भेजे जाते हैं, तो वे जान बूझकर किसी तरीके से ऐसा करते हैं कि डिलिव्री उन के पास न आये। इस

वजह से भी घासलेट की कमी हुई। इसलिए अब यह व्यवस्था की गई है कि तेल को डीपो पर दिया जाये और वे लोग डीपो पर से लें। डीपो पर कैपेसिटी बढ़ाने की कोशिश की जा रही है। जहां तक घासलेट के कंट्रोल आर्डर को लागू करने का सवाल है, हमने स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के अधिकारियों से निवेदन किया है कि वे कंट्रोल आर्डर को सख्ती के साथ अमल में लाने की कोशिश करें।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैंने इस सम्बन्ध में प्रधान मंत्री को पत्र लिखा था। उन्होंने बड़ी सहानुभूति के साथ लिखा कि उत्तर बिहार को तेल की जिस कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ रहा है वह दूर कर दी जायेगी। हमारे यहां मोतिहारी से 110 मील पर बरौनी पड़ता है। वहां तेल पड़ा हुआ है। लेकिन गांवों में तेल दो रुपये बोतल के हिसाब से विकता है। क्या मंत्री महोदय होलसेलर्ज और डिलर्ज के लैवल पर एक नान-आफिशल कमेटी बनाने की बात सोच रहे हैं, जो उनका हिसाब देखें कि कितना तेल आया और किस प्रकार उसका डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन हुआ; यदि हां, तो सरकार कब तक इस व्यवस्था को काम में लायेगी।

श्री पी० सी० सेठी : जहां तक बिहार में घासलेट की कमी का ताल्लुक है, मुझे पक्का यकीन है कि जब बरौनी से पाइपलाइन के द्वारा घासलेट पहुंच जायेगा, तो उसके बाद घासलेट की कमी नहीं होगी। जहां तक एडवाइजरी कमेटी बनाने का सवाल है, यह कंट्रोल आर्डर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट एनफोर्स करती है। यदि कलेक्टर चाहे, तो वह जिला स्तर पर ऐसी एडवाइजरी कमेटी बना सकता है। इसमें हमारी तरफ से कोई एतराज नहीं है।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि तेल की कमी इसलिए हुई है कि बहुत से लोग तेल को पेट्रोल में मिलाते हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि ऐसे लोगों को पकड़ने के लिए क्या उपाय किये जा रहे हैं। मध्य प्रदेश

में भी मिट्टी के तेल की बहुत भयंकर तंगी है। विशेषकर मंत्री महोदय के चुनाव-क्षेत्र में लोग त्राहि-त्राहि कर रहे हैं। वहां पर सवा, डेढ़ रुपये की बोतल मिलती है। क्या मंत्री महोदय वहां अतिरिक्त तेल पहुंचाने की व्यवस्था करेंगे?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह सवाल उड़ीसा के बारे में है, लेकिन माननीय सदस्य बिहार और मध्य प्रदेश वगैरह के बारे में सवाल पूछ रहे हैं। जो लोग प्रोसीडिंग्ज को पढ़ेंगे, वे कहेंगे कि मेम्बरसाहबन तो ये सवाल पूछ रहे थे, लेकिन स्पीकर भी उनकी इजाजत दे रहा था। इसलिए आप मुझपर मेहरबानी करें।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह सारे देश का मसला है। मंत्री महोदय ने स्वयं कबूल किया है कि तेल को पेट्रोल में मिलाया जाता है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : लेकिन आप तो यहां क्वेश्चन में मिलावट कर रहे हैं।

SHRI S. B. GIRI : The minister said that it is the unscrupulous traders who have created artificial scarcity. May I know how many of such people have been arrested ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : I did not say so in such general and broad terms; I said, some unscrupulous traders do try to do it. It is for the State Government to take suitable action against them.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Merger of Hindustan Antibiotics with I. D. P. L.

*308. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government for the merger of the Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pimpri with the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?