

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Monday, April 24, 1972/Vaisakha 4,
1894 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Agreement with U.S.S.R. for supply of
deep sea fishing vessels

*521. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE
SHARMA .
SHRI RAMKANWAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement between the
Governments of India and U.S.S.R. for the
supply of deep sea fishing vessels have been
reached recently and if so, the main features
thereof ;

(b) the total amount in foreign exchange
to be paid for the purchase of these vessels ;
and

(c) the estimated foreign exchange to be
earned by India as a result of fishing by these
vessels ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI
ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा : अध्यक्ष जी,
यद्यपि सोवियत सरकार से इस सम्बन्ध में कोई
समझौता न होने की सूचना कृषि मंत्री ने दी है
पर प्रश्न यह है (व्यवधान)...

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अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप प्रश्न कीजिए ।

श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा : प्रश्न ही कर रहा
हूँ । मैं निवेदन कर रहा था कि पञ्चवर्षीय योजना
में जो हमारे टारगेट्स हैं फिशिंग के उनको पूरा
करने के लिए और डीप सी फिशिंग वेसल्स की जो
हमारे यहाँ अभी हैं उनके बारे में सरकार क्या
करने जा रही है ?

MR SPEAKER : The question was spe-
cific whether there has been an agreement with
the USSR for the import of these vessels and
whether any foreign exchange was sanctioned
for the same, and he has answered that there
is no such agreement and the question of
foreign exchange does not arise. If he wants
to ask another question, he may give notice.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :
फॉरेन एक्सचेंज से रिलेटेड इमलिए है कि
Foreign exchange cannot be earned without
proper deep sea fishing vessels for that,
what is the Agriculture Ministry doing ?
This is a very important question.

MR SPEAKER : He asked about fore-
ign exchange for the purchase of these vessels.
When the vessels are not to be purchased
where is the question of foreign exchange
arising ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :
Part (c) relates to the earning of foreign ex-
change. That would imply the import of such
vessels.

MR SPEAKER : No, I am not going to
allow it.

Full in the Growth Rate of Consumption
of Fertiliser

*522 SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to
state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn

to the news item in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 29th March, 1972 that "the growth rate in fertiliser consumption has dropped from 40 per cent in 1967-68 to 8 per cent in 1970-71";

(b) whether in the meantime in use of simple phosphatic fertiliser had also increased; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefore and the steps Government have taken or intend to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P SHINDE) : (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The following is the picture regarding the consumption of fertilisers in the last five years, as available from States :

(lakh tonnes)

Year	N	P	K	N + P + K	Percentage increase over the previous year.
1967-68	10.35	3.35	1.70	15.40	40
1968-69	12.08	3.82	1.70	17.60	14
1969-70	13.56	4.16	2.10	19.82	13
1970-71	14.79	5.41	2.36	22.56	14
1971-72	18.12	5.90	3.49	27.51	22

It will be seen from the above that the use of fertilisers has registered an increase of 14% in 1970-71 over the preceding year and not 8%.

(b) the consumption of phosphatic fertilisers has increased to 5.41 lakh tonnes of P_2O_5 in 1970-71, from 3.35 lakh tonnes in 1967-68 i.e. 61% increase over three years. There is however scope for further increasing the use of phosphatic fertilisers for getting better yields.

The use of single superphosphate, which is only one of the various types of phosphatic fertilisers, has remained more or less at the level of 7 lakh tonnes during these years. The reason is the increasing availability of other cheaper phosphatic fertilisers.

(c) The growth rate has relatively come down because of the following reasons :

(i) The increase in the consumption of

fertilisers in 1967-68 over the preceding year was 4.49 lakh tonnes of nutrients while such increase in 1970-71 over the preceding year was 2.74 lakh tonnes of nutrients. Since the base of consumption in 1969-70 was about double of the base in 1966-67, results in percentages are not quite representative.

(ii) A break-through was achieved with high yielding varieties of wheat in the middle 1960's and there was a spurt in fertiliser use soon thereafter. The break-through in paddy has so far relatively been less spectacular than in the case of wheat, and its impact on fertiliser use has also been accordingly less dramatic than in the case of wheat.

(iii) Deficiencies in the distribution system in some of the States.

- (iv) Difficulties encountered in transporting fertilisers to hilly and inaccessible areas like parts of Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and other hilly States.
- (v) Weak cooperative structure in some States.
- (vi) Lack of availability of sufficient credit in time.
- (vii) Gaps in extension efforts.

Steps taken by the Government to increase the use of fertilisers are indicated below :

- (i) Research to evolve new high-yielding fertiliser-responsive paddy seeds suitable to the different regions of the country is continuing ; recently, as many as nine such new varieties have been released indicating that we are poised for break-through in rice technology. It is hoped that with this break-through, there will be a substantial increase in rice production and in consumption of fertilisers in the rice growing areas
- (ii) The licensing system for distribution of fertilisers was liberalised so that the number of retail outlets will increase and cater to farmers in interior areas where fertiliser use is still not at a high enough level. The State Governments have been requested to study the location of depots and take steps to create retail depots in areas at present not served by retail outlets. The Central Fertiliser Pool is maintaining buffer stocks of fertilisers in some of the States where the distribution arrangements are weak.
- (iii) The Government are considering subsidising transport of fertilisers by road to important centres in inaccessible areas not served by Railways
- (iv) The Government have taken steps to increase the availability of production and distribution credit. The State Governments are given short-term loans to the extent of 1/6th of the value of the Pool fertiliser lifted. A Credit Guarantee Corporation has also been set up to cover risks invol-

ved in lending by commercial banks to farmers and to fertiliser dealers so that banks are encouraged to lend them more liberally.

- (v) National demonstrations are being conducted in a large number of districts and farmers training programme is being intensified to educate farmers in all areas to increase fertiliser use.
- (vi) Government of India have also set up a Fertiliser Promotion Cell in the Ministry to mount a massive and effective 10 point programme for stepping up balanced use of fertilizers in 70 selected districts during the remaining two years of the 4th Plan period.
- (vii) Soil testing programme is being strengthened. Mobile soil testing vans are being supplied to the States.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Is there a growing imbalance in the use of nitrogenous, phosphate and potash fertilisers noticed in the first three years of the Fourth Plan ? If so, what steps have Government taken to bring about a proper ratio so that we may not be adversely affected ?

SHRI ANNASHEB P. SHINDE : It is true that in this country, in the ratio as between consumption and demand in respect of fertilisers, there has been some imbalance. So, first of all, we are having a very large number of demonstrations all over the country through the ICAR and independently and through the Centrally-sponsored schemes and through the State Governments. That is the first thing. Secondly, this soil analysis is the basis, and then the farmers. All that is being done. We find now that the consumption has increased and this year our experience is that everywhere there is a demand for various types of fertilisers in the country, and that is a very encouraging sign.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Besides the imbalance in the use of nitrogen, etc., may I know whether there is a deficiency in the micronutrients like zinc, beryl, manganese, copper and sulphur where also it has been noticed, especially in areas where high-yielding varieties of

wheat and paddy were grown and, if so, what is the Government going to do about it.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Recently, it has been also disclosed that as a result of intensive double-cropping, multiple cropping and the intensive use of land, the deficiency of micro-nutrients has also come to our notice, particularly zinc. Therefore, soil analysis can possibly indicate the deficiencies. We have advised the State Governments that wherever intensive cropping is being done, in addition to the normal fertilisers like NPK, the farmer should be educated to use the various micro-nutrients.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Firstly is it not a fact that our *per capita* consumption of fertilisers is one of the lowest in the world, and secondly, is it not a fact that more than 33 per cent below capacity is used at the moment in respect of the fertiliser plants on the one hand, and on the other hand, there is an acute shortage of certain types of fertilisers, particularly urea in many areas ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I do not know what the hon. Member means. He has missed the mark very much. As far as the production aspect is concerned, I think he should put the question to the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals. I can answer the latter part of his question. As far as the short-fall is concerned, to the extent we are unable to get from indigenous production, we are trying to meet it by import.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : My question was about the *per capita* consumption by world standards. We consume the least, in the matter of fertilisers, judged by world standards. That has not been replied to. That is for you to answer.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : If it is consumption of fertilisers, it can never be *per capita* ; it can be only so much per acre or per hectare. Of course ; it is low as compared to many other advanced countries.

MR. SPEAKER : *Per capita* means the eating of fertilisers.

श्री अरविन्द नेताम : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं संत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ क्या उर्वरक को बेसी शराब बनाने के उपयोग में लाया जा

रहा है जैसा कि मध्य प्रदेश के बस्तर जिले में हो रहा है ? अगर यह बात सही है तो सरकार इसके सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Not to my knowledge, at least in respect of NPK. But if there is any specific thing brought to our notice, we will take necessary action.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : Is it a fact that in spite of the heavy demand or increasing demand for the use of fertilisers, the deficiency is only because of high prices and because the distribution is entrusted to people like Parry and Co., the monopolists, in Orissa and other parts of the country and so the farmers are not able to use it, and therefore the growth rate has fallen ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : It would not be a correct inference to say that the consumption of fertilisers is deficient. What really has been happening is this. We contemplated almost 25 to 26 per cent growth annually in the consumption of fertilisers. This year, for instance, the consumption has gone up by 22 per cent. When we say it has not come up, we mean there is a shortfall in the targeted consumption rate, because there are certain States like the hon. Member's State where the consumption has not come up. It is because the extension services and a number of other inputs are not being taken up. We have drawn the attention of the State Governments to this problem. The distribution system is not entirely with the private sector ; pooling of fertilisers is given to the State Governments and the State Governments are requested to give preference to the co-operatives. Therefore, whether the fertilisers are produced by the private sector fertiliser undertakings or are produced by the public sector undertakings, they have a programme to market it. We find that 60 per cent of fertilisers in this country are distributed through co-operatives.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : Why Parry and Co. ? Why not co-operatives ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is a suggestion for action.

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA : The consumption of single super phosphate is almost stagnating at seven lakhs of tonnes for the

last few years and the reason given is availability of cheap fertiliser. Super phosphate is one of the best fertilisers, and what are the steps that the Government have taken to bring down the prices of fertilisers ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : The hon. Member is right in the factual information. The consumption of single super phosphate is not coming up. It is a paradoxical situation. There is a great demand for diammonium phosphate ; it is a concentrated type of phosphate. But the superphosphate capacity in our country remains unutilised. The superior types of fertilisers are becoming more popular. At the same time we do not like our capacity to remain idle. We are studying how this could be increased.

Our general assessment is that though the prices are high, the consumption is increasing and it is not affecting actual consumption of fertilisers.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : In answer to part (c) the hon. Minister has admitted the slow growth rate of consumption of fertilisers. In 1970-71 it is again low. What efforts are they going to make to increase consumption ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : If the hon. Member carefully reads the statement as far as phosphate is concerned, it is available in three ways. One is, single super-phosphate manufactured by our super phosphate factory. In the big fertiliser plants like Trombay, we are manufacturing diammonium phosphate which is highly concentrated. It has become more popular with the farmer. That is why the off take of this particular type of fertiliser is not picking up.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I am sorry I have to say that he must read his replies carefully ; I have read it carefully. The answer relates to the increase in the growth rate ; that has come down because of the following reasons—as mentioned in the statement. The increase in the consumption of fertilisers in 1967-68 over the preceding year was 4.49 lakh tonnes of nutrients while such increase in 1970-71 over the preceding year was 2.74 lakh tonnes of nutrients. So, definitely that has gone down.

MR. SPEAKER : He said that it was due to superior fertilisers.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I would request the hon. Member to read it fully. The last sentence refers to this.

MR. SPEAKER : Instead of taking the time of the House, I request both of them to read it at home...*(Interruptions.)* Next question.

Allotment of Plots to M.Ps. in Delhi

* 524. SHRI KARTIK ORAON : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a few residential plots were to be allotted to Members of Parliament in Delhi and 5 per cent of these plots were supposed to be set apart for Members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ;

(b) if so, how many of these plots have been allotted to the Scheduled Castes and how many to the Scheduled Tribes ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) 5% of the residential plots developed by the Delhi Development Authority for low and middle income groups are reserved for sitting Members of Parliament and Metropolitan Council, Councillors of the Delhi Municipal Corporation and non-official members of the Cantonment Board and the New Delhi Municipal Committee. This reservation is irrespective of the fact whether persons falling in these categories belong to Scheduled Castes/Tribes or not.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : I would like to know from the Government as to whether it is a fact that a few plots had been allotted to Members of Parliament and if so, does any Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe Member figure in that list ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is your question which he has answered.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : Plots have been allotted to Members of Parliament. I want to know who they are and whether