

DR. K. L. RAO: The Committee that has been appointed is not about storage of power but it is about whether we should import some equipment from outside in order to meet our targets, and that Committee is having its discussions.

Consumption of Petroleum by Petroleum based Fertilizer

*206. **SHRI R. P. DAS:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual consumption of petroleum by all petroleum based fertiliser plants when all the present projects start working; and

(b) the percentage of the petroleum requirements which will be met through imports?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) The annual requirement of petroleum products for use either as fertiliser feedstock or as fuel for petroleum based fertilizer plants, which are either currently in operation, or are in different stages of construction/firmed up, is estimated at 3.9 million tonnes by the end of the Fifth Plan.

(b) In the context of the plans being drawn up for the expansion of our refining capacity by 1978-79, it is expected that the requirement would by and large be met from indigenous production.

SHRI R. P. DAS: In view of the larger consumption and imports of petroleum, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this could be minimised by restricting the consumption by the Railways and also the senseless use by the Government, semi-Government and private users.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: As per our plan we have to produce by 1978 about 2.5 million tonnes. For that we need more petroleum refining capa-

city. So, restriction of petroleum products for fertiliser plants has not been very clearly decided upon. But, certainly we are trying to find alternative sources for fertilisers like coal. In fact, three coal-based factories have already been sanctioned and in respect of two of them civil works have already been started.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The question was about restriction of consumption.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: It is difficult to restrict consumption of petroleum because the demand is going up by leaps and bounds. But, as I said, it will be in the interests of the nation if we could also find alternative sources for fertilisers.

SHRI R. P. DAS: Kindly indicates the imports yearwise since 1969-70 and whether the volume of imports in this respect is getting higher and higher making the Government more and more dependent on the foreign suppliers.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Is it in respect of feedstock for fertilisers or petroleum products?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHAYYA: Total.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Petroleum and petroleum products.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: So far as petroleum products are concerned, the increase is not very noticeable, but so far as import of crude is concerned, it is certainly increasing.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: He asked the figures year by year of the imported crude and the petroleum products.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The figures are not available with me.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: I would like to know whether the Government has worked out the comparative advantage of importing naphtha and ammonia and if so, what are the details.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The new policy is there. All the new fertiliser factories should be not based on naptha but on fuel oil. So far as fuel oil is concerned, we are not using much of it now. But the coming refineries are mostly going to be on fuel oil. I do not have the relative figures about Naptha and ammonia but naptha is certainly very expensive, twice as expensive as fuel oil.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: The answer to part (a) of the question is that the annual requirement of petroleum products for use as fertiliser feedstock or as fuel for fertiliser plants is 3.9 million tonnes and it will be met when all the present projects start working. But, the other day, the Minister has laid a statement on the Table of the House which indicated that most of the projects in this Ministry are falling behind the targets, not by a couple of years, but by decades. May I know whether by and large the requirements will be fulfilled when all the projects will start functioning and what is the care he has taken in this regard?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: It is a fact that some of them have slid back but not by decades. So far as Durgapur is concerned, it is going to be commissioned shortly. Cochin is having a few teething troubles but I think that also will go into production and Barauni, I think, will also go into production soon.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: What about Haldia?

SHRI D. K. BAROOAH: Construction of Haldia fertilizer factory has not been started as yet; but civil works have started.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: When will it be completed?

श्री हुकम चंद कछवाय : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि कुछ शोध-शालाएं खोलने जा रहे हैं तो कितनी और कहाँ कहाँ खोलने जा रहे

हैं और इस में कितना समय लगेगा [इन को चालू होने में और इस पर कितना खर्च करने वाले हैं ?

श्री देवकान्त बहग्रा : रिफाइनरीज के बारे में आप पूछ रहे हैं । तो अभी तो हाल में मथुरा में बढ़ाने को कहा है और गोवा रिफाइनरी के बारे में निर्णय लेने वाले हैं । हल्दिया रिफाइनरी का काम इसी साल में समाप्त होने की संभावना है ।

श्री हुकम चंद कछवाय : कितना समय लगेगा इन के चालू होने में और इन पर कितना खर्च करेंगे ?

श्री देवकान्त बहग्रा : इसके लिए तो नोटिस चाहिए ।

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Arising out of the answer given by the hon. Minister, there are some reports which have come out recently that apart from coal and petroleum there are many indigenous commodities which can be used for the purpose of fertilizer plants. May I know whether the Government is making any study on this aspect, to reduce the consumption of petroleum?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The basic raw material is coal. For quite some time to come we will have to depend on coal as the alternative source for feedstock in fertiliser factories.

SHRI D. BASUMATARI: The hon. Minister stated about the refineries at three places. But he has not mentioned about the refinery at Bongai-gaon. What is the position there? I want to know whether the civil work has started.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The refinery has already been sanctioned and I suppose this year we will start some of the preliminary works there.