

ble for us to do so. That does not mean we are going to waste coal resources.

**Shri Ranga:** You have already wasted Rs. 70 lakhs on buildings.

#### Durgapur Fertiliser Factory

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\*183. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Dr. P. N. Khan:**  
**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**  
**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received tenders for the design and erection of the Fertiliser Factory at Durgapur;

(b) if so, from which countries;

(c) the particulars of the quotations received and accepted by Government; and

(d) when the work is likely to start?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Alagesan):** (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) The project is being posed to U.S. AID for assistance and as soon as its acceptance is received, orders for plant and machinery will be placed. Preliminary work on the project site has, however, been taken in hand.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I refer to reply to Q. No. 181 in which it is said that this Durgapur plant is under construction? What preliminary works are being done at present?

**Shri Alagesan:** Already a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has been sanctioned for preliminary works, construction facilities such as power, water, site office and communication facilities have been provided; work on other facilities also is going on.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** What is the foreign exchange component for this and how will it be arranged?

**Shri Alagesan:** Now it has been estimated that the total cost of the project will be Rs. 40.68 crores of which the foreign exchange part will be Rs. 17.04 crores.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** Has enough care been taken to see that the production cost in this factory is not so high as in other factories? What would be the total production when it is fully commissioned?

**Shri Alagesan:** The total production will be 125,000 tonnes in terms of nitrogen. In terms of end-products, it will be 5,60,000 tonnes ammonium phosphate/sulphate and 55,000 tonnes urea.

As regards keeping down the cost, we are making every effort to that end. As you know, there is shortage of sulphur. So we have to go in for pyrites. When that plant is added, the cost of the project has gone a little higher.

**Dr. Ranen Sen:** Is there any foreign collaboration in the construction of this Durgapur fertiliser factory? If so, who are the parties?

**Shri Alagesan:** Perhaps the hon. Member did not listen to the main answer. We have said there is no foreign collaboration; we have posed the project for assistance under USAID.

**Shri Basappa:** I wanted to ask the same question. What is the nature of the USAID....

**Mr. Speaker:** He need not repeat it then.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Could we know the time schedule according to which this factory will go into production?

**Shri Alagesan:** We estimate that as soon as foreign exchange is found, we will be able to complete the project within a period 30 months—not more than 36 months.