

Tiny Sector

*556. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRISULTANSALAHUDDIN
OWAISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since finalised a policy for the tiny sector;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the said policy is likely to be finalised/announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposed policy is under consultation with various Ministries/Departments, after which the policy will be finalised.

Fertilizers

*557. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) The quantity of chemical fertilizers likely to be imported during 1994-95;

(b) the reasons for not activating our own sick fertilizer plants to meet this

requirement; and

(c) the details of short term measures taken/proposed to be taken to revive sick fertilizer plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Jrea are the major fertilizers which are imported. DAP and MOP have been decontrolled and their imports decanalised. The likely volume of imports of these fertilizers during 1994-95 cannot be computed at present.

Imports of Urea are effected to bridge the gap between the demand and indigenous availability. It will not be in public interest to disclose in advance information regarding the likely quantum of Urea imports.

(b) Keeping in view the installed capacity and continuously low capacity utilisation of most of the fertilizer plants of the sick companies, namely, Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC), the import requirement of Urea cannot be met from the production of these plants. The cases of FCI and HFC stand referred to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) which has appointed Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) as the Operating Agency to prepare rehabilitation packages in respect of these companies. The decision on the future of FCI & HFC would depend on the outcome of the proceedings pending before BIFR, which is a quasi judicial authority.

(c) In order to sustain the produc-

tion of FCI and HFC in the short term, Government has been providing them budgetary support for meeting their requirements for repairs and renewals/replacements, as well as for working capital.

Uses of Atomic Energy

*558. SHRI NURUL ISLAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the areas in which the research in atomic energy is being applied in the field of agriculture in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to open a centre for providing the above services to the farmers in the North-Eastern Region of the country and also in the other States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) In the field of Agriculture Research in Atomic Energy is being applied in the following areas in our country :

1. To develop improved varieties of crop plants such as pulses, oilseeds and other cash crops by inducing genetic variability in seeds by irradiation.

2. For improving fertiliser use efficiency for different soil types.

3. To follow the fate and persis-

tence of pesticides and heavy metal pollutants in crops, soil and plant products.

4. For pest control using integrated pest control management using sterile insects and other bio-agents to reduce the environmental damage from the use of chemical pesticides.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal with the Government to open a centre for providing such services either in the north-eastern region or in any other state in the country.

However, facilities for irradiating crop seeds for inducing mutation is made available at Trombay to all agricultural universities and institutes in the country. For example, two varieties of mustard, TM-2 (Black seeded) and TM-4 (Yellow seeded) were developed in collaboration with Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat and these varieties have been released and notified in Gazette in February 1993 for commercial cultivation in Brahmaputra Valley Zone of Assam.

Paper Industry

*559. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the shortage of raw-materials has adversely affected the flow of new investments in the paper industry as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 9, 1994;