

- (ix) To develop linkage with Social Science Institutions in order to give adequate attention to the social engineering aspects of ground water saving and sharing.
- (x) To adopt a revised target date for completion of long-term target of 18,000 boreholes.
- (xi) Exploratory drilling particularly for deep aquifers, will have to be handled by the National Ground Water Organisation alone during this decade.
- (xii) The Ground Water Organisation at national level should be headed by a Director General in the scale of Additional Secretary and he should be supported by four Deputy Directors General in the scale of Joint Secretary. In order to achieve integrated work arrangement in the field so that command and control is not diffused, the Organisation should have 17 Regional Directorates, combining both the Scientific and Engineering Wings, to discharge all functions of the organisation.
- (xiii) The Flexible Complementing facility should be extended to the Officers of Engineering Wing.
- (xiv) A Consultant may be engaged to prepare an appropriate Stores Management System.

Modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant

*353. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made so far in the modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant; and
- (b) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) The basic and detailed design engineering and the ordering of plant and equipment have almost been completed for 14 of the 16 main turnkey packages under DSP modernisation. The remaining two packages are yet to be finalised. Though in some areas of work like equipment supply and erection of structurals and equipment, slippages have been observed, substantial progress has been made in civil works and structural supplies.

(b) Steel Authority of India expect that the overall completion schedule of March, 1993 set for the whole project would be adhered to.

Prices of Fertilisers

*354. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:

SHRI HARIKEWAL
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) when the prices of fertilisers were last fixed;
- (b) whether the Government propose to increase the prices of fertilisers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there is likely to be an adverse impact of price hike on the farmers; and
- (e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (c) The statutory consumer prices of fertilisers were revised with effect from the 25th July, 1991. The details of these prices are given in attached statement. A reduction has since been announced, which would increase fertiliser prices by 30%, in-

stead of 40% over the prices prevailing on 24th July, 1991.

There had been no effective increase in fertiliser prices since July, 1981 whereas there has been a continuous increase in procurement and market prices of different crops. The fertiliser prices were revised to contain the fertiliser subsidy bill which was Rs. 24.80 crores in 1977-78 and had risen to Rs. 4387.73 crores in 1990-91.

(d) and (e) Apart from the reduction of fertiliser prices the Government of India is issuing instruction that a special scheme should be fram-

ed in consultation with the States so that the small and marginal farmers can be given fertilisers at prices prevailing before 25th July, 1991.

The consumption of fertilisers depends not only on the consumer prices of fertilisers but also on other related factors which include the availability of irrigation facilities and of high yielding varieties of seeds, weather conditions, credit facilities, the expectation of farmers regarding the crop prices, etc. To the extent this price-revision will affect the cost of production, the support and procurement prices will be suitably adjusted to offset the increase in costs.

STATEMENT

<i>Name of fertilizers</i>	<i>Maximum price per tonne net (in Rupee) as on 25-7-91</i>
1	2
1. Urea (46% N)	3300
2. Muriate of Potash (60% K)	1820
3. Di-ammonium Phosphate (18-46-0)	5040
4. NPK (17-17-17)	3640
5. NPK (15-15-15)	2940
6. NPK (19-19-19)	4140
7. Ammonium Phosphate Sulphate (20-20-0)	3640
8. Nitro Phosphate (20-20-0)	3360
9. Nitro Phosphate (23-23-0)	4120
10. Ammonium Phosphate Sulphate (16-20-0)	3220
11. Urea Ammonium Phosphate (24-24-0)	4280
12. Urea Ammonium Phosphate (28-28-0)	5040
13. NPK (14-28-14)	4280
14. NPK (14-35-14)	4760
15. NPK (10-26-26)	4140
16. NPK (12-32-16)	4560
17. Triple Super Phosphate (46% P ₂ O ₅) (Granular)	3640

1	2
18. Triple Super Phosphate (Powder)	3360
19. Single Super Phosphate (Powder) (14% P ₂ O ₅)	1160
20. Single Super Phosphate (Powder) (16% P ₂ O ₅)	1340
21. Single Super Phosphate (Granular) (16% P ₂ O ₅)	1540
22. Anhydrous Ammonia	5280

[*Translation*]**Post Office and Telephone Facilities to Gram Panchayats**

*355. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI:
SHRI UPENDRA NATH
VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to provide post office and telephone facilities to all the gram panchayats in the country by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of gram panchayats in Rajasthan which have been provided with post office and telephone facilities so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT):

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, as regards provision of telephone facility, there is a plan to cover all panchayat villages by the end of the Eighth Plan. Regarding postal network, presently there are 1,32,646 post offices catering to the rural areas including panchayat villages. It is proposed to set up about 6000 post offices in the rural areas during the Eighth Plan period, on the basis of existing norms.

(c) The number of gram panchayats in Rajasthan provided with post office and telephone facilities are as below:

Post Office	7014
Telephones	2448

[*English*]**Survey Regarding Wastage of River Waters**

*356. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any survey on wastage of river waters during monsoon and floods;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the steps being taken for storing the surplus waters resulting from monsoon and floods;

(d) whether the Government propose to utilise inter-basin waters for increasing the irrigation potential in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The Central Water Commission has assessed the average annual flow of the river basins of India as 1880 billion cubic metre, out of which the annual average utilisable surface water is expected to be 690 billion cubic metres without inter-basin transfers of water. Present utilisation is of the order of 380 billion cubic metres of surface water from the storages and from direct run of the river together.

(c) A number of storage projects including small tanks have been constructed for storage of water. Existing storage capacity in the country is 193.2