

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, *question does not arise.*

(c) *The details of the projects identified by the Government in public and co-operative sector are as follows :—*

- (i) Expansion of Vijaipur Plant of National Fertilizers Limited.
- (ii) Expansion of Apnla Plant of IFFCO.
- (iii) Expansion of Hazira Plant of KRIBHCO by setting up a nitrophosphate unit.
- (iv) Revamping/expansion of the plant of Madras Fertilizers Limited.
- (v) Expansion of Thal Plant of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited by setting up ammonia/nitrophosphate plant.
- (vi) Modernisation and expansion of Cochin-II plant of FACT.
- (vii) Putting up of a modern 900 TPC Ammonia plant in replacement of three old Ammonia Plants at Udyogmandal by FACT.
- (viii) Upgradation of the Gorakhpur Plant of Fertilizer Corporation of India.
- (ix) Phase-I Rehabilitation, including a captive power Plant of 40 MW, of Ramagandam Plant of Fertilizer Corporation of India.
- (x) Phase-I Rehabilitation of Talcher Plant of Fertilizer Corporation of India.
- (xi) Modernisation of Sindri Plant and setting up of a new captive

power plant at Sindri by Fertilizer Corporation of India

[Translation]

Declaration of Ambedkar's Birthday as Government Holiday

3043. SHRI KALKA DASS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received demands from various organisations to declare 'April 14', the birthday of Baba Sahib Ambedkar, as a public holiday; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Representations have been received demanding holiday on the birthday of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. As a matter of policy, the birthday of no national leader other than that of Mahatma Gandhi, is being observed as a regular holiday. In view of this, it has not been found possible to accept the demand.

Drinking Water for Animals under DDP

3044. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any provision has been made for a special fund for providing drinking water for animals under the Desert Development Programme;

(b) whether the Government propose to instal tube-wells in desert

areas where water is not available on the surface;

(c) whether the State Government of Rajasthan have requested the Union Government to allocate funds for providing tube-wells in these areas under the DDP;

(d) whether the Government propose to make the funds available to the State Government at the earliest; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) There is no special fund for providing drinking water for animals under the Desert Development Programme (DDP). However, providing drinking water for animals is an eligible activity under DDP and can be undertaken within approved allocation for an year. Further, under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), there is specific provision for safe drinking water for human-beings and for cattle in the desert districts (DDP).

(b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is engaged in construction of exploratory tubewells in DDP districts to meet their water supply needs. The CGWB has also been assisting National Drinking Water Mission in scientific source finding for village water supply in Rajasthan and has covered problem villages in Barmer, Churu and Nagaur district. Tubewells for drinking water may be installed in the desert areas under ARWSP also.

(c) Requests have been received from Government of Rajasthan for declaring installation of tubewells as

an eligible activity under DDP.

(d) and (e) It has been explained to the Government of Rajasthan that the strategy for development in desert areas should be based on integrated watershed plans which should aim at conservation of rain water to facilitate recharge of ground water as against exploitation of already precarious reserves of limited ground water resources and on activities which contribute to drought proofing, restoration of ecological balance and checking of desertification. Further, the need for drinking water could be taken care of through a largely funded Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme with special accent on arid area. Under this programme for Rajasthan for 1991-92, a sum of Rs. 27.91 crores for normal programme and Rs. 13.92 crores for DDP under ARWSP have been allocated. Assistance is also being rendered to the State of Rajasthan under another Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening of ground water organisation and Rs. 67 lakhs have been provided during 1989-90 to 1990-91.

[English]

Import of Phosphoric Acid

3045. SHRI C. P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA :
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of phosphoric acid imported during 1990;

(b) whether the import of phosphoric acid is a costly affair as compared to the import of fertilizers; and