

**Strike in Indian Explosives Ltd.,
Gomia (Bihar)**

* 29. SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA : Will the PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the continued strike of the workers of the Indian Explosives Limited, Gomia (Bihar);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are considering to nationalise the industry forthwith ?

PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It was reported that there was a partial strike of the unit from 23.3.71 to 7.4.71, when it was called off on an appeal from the Chief Minister of Bihar.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

**Conference of Executives and Technical
Heads of Fertilizer Corporation of India
held at Patna**

* 30. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Conference of top executives and technical heads of the Fertilizer Corporation of India of the eastern States was held recently at Patna;

(b) if so, the programmes discussed and decisions taken;

(c) whether India has to fork out 100 crores foreign exchange annually for the import of fertilizers at present;

(d) if so, how many fertilizer plants are going to be established in the eastern region; and

(e) the progress made for the setting up of a unit at Haldia ?

PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b). A Conference was held at Patna on 13th and 14th April, 1971 of the Senior Agricultural Scientists dealing with Promotion and Extension activities of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd., and Senior Marketing Managers. It was attended by two Directors of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. and General Manager, Barauni Division, Directors of Agriculture of Bihar and Bengal, Vice-Chancellor, Rajendra Agricultural University, Patna and Director of Research, Rajendra Agricultural University, Patna.

The agenda was as follows :

(1) Fertilizer Promotion Programmes by F. C. I. in collaboration with the State Governments and Budget for Khariff for :

(a) Assam

(b) Bengal

(c) Bihar

(d) Madhya Pradesh

(e) Orissa.

(2) Marketing of Suphala with micro-nutrient zinc and production of Suphala with other trace elements.

(3) Prospects of application of fertilizer-pesticide mixtures.

(4) Introduction of slow release fertilizers.

(5) Programme of further agricultural research to support extension and promotion activities.

The following conclusions were reached :

(1) The programmes and budget for the five States were approved.

(2) At present, except zinc, no other micro-nutrient need be added in the absence of conclusive evidence established by research.

(3) U. S. experience of slow release ferti-