

Change in policy in Fertilizer sector

117. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided upon policy changes in fertilizer sector to make up for the lag in the current plan and meet the substantially enlarged requirements of the Fifth Plan; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND SINGH): (a) and (b). Government is CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR fully aware of the need to bring about a rapid expansion of fertilizer production consistent with the growing needs of agriculture during the Fifth Plan. Several steps have already been and are being taken to ensure optimum production in the operating plants and also to expedite the commissioning of the several projects which are under implementation. Additionally, a Task Force has been set up with among others, representatives of the industry to look into the various problems of the fertilizer industry on an integrated basis and suggest measures designed to bring about a rapid build up of fertilizer capacity.

Formation of a new Power Zone

118. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision regarding the possibility of forming a new power zone; and

(b) if so, the names of the States included in the Zone?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) There is no proposal at present under consideration for forming a new power zone.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Production Unit for Manufacture of Wheels Axles, Rollers, Bearing and Tractor Gears in Kerala

119. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the State Government of Kerala to allot one of the three major production units for manufacture of wheels axles, roller, bearing and tractor gears to Kerala; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to allot one of the major wheel axle plants to Kerala as requested by the State Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) The Railway Ministry is considering the setting up of two Production Units only—one for the manufacture of Wheels and Axles and the other for Traction Gears. The idea of setting up a Roller Bearing Plant has been given up.

The Project Reports for the two Units have not yet been finalised. However, based on the preliminary studies made it has been decided to set up this Project in Mysore State. With regard to the Traction Gear plant, as the major production of this Unit is to go towards meeting the needs of the diesel locomotives manufactured at Varanasi, this particular Unit will be set up as an adjunct to the Diesel Locomotive Works already established and functioning at Varanasi.

Setting up Thermal Stations

120. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish Thermal Stations in the country: