

Kerala plea for setting up of a Petro-Chemical Complex

1220. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:
SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has been making plea for setting up a Petro-Chemical Complex based on petroleum products from the Cochin Refinery since 1976; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and Central Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The programme for petrochemicals in the public sector during the Fifth Plan is being limited to the completion of the naphtha cracker and the downstream units at Baroda, Gujarat, and the Bongaigaon Refinery/Petrochemical complex in Assam. No new major programme for a petrochemicals complex at Cochin or elsewhere is currently contemplated during the Fifth Plan period.

Setting up of new fertilizer plants and curtailment of imports of fertilizers

1221. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:
SHRI S. R. DAMANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up new fertilizer plants;

(b) if so, the location of these plants and other broad outlines thereof;

(c) to what extent imports would be curtailed and self-sufficiency reached in regard to fertilizer needs of the country when these new units work to capacity;

(d) whether the Kerala Government's request for setting up Cochin III fertilizer factory is under Union Government's consideration for the last five years; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken to expedite the decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (c). In the revised Fifth Plan, provision has been made for four new fertilizer projects, two each in 1977-78 and 1978-79. Action is on hand to identify the projects to be taken up for implementation keeping in view the availability of feedstock, requirement of product mix, availability of market etc. In view of the advantages of the use of gas as the fertilizer feedstock, preference would be given for setting up additional fertilizer capacity based on associate gas available from the Bombay High area. According to the present estimates, the gap between consumption and production by 1983-84 is likely to be about 1.2 million tonnes of nitrogen. Additional fertilizer capacity is now being planned to cover this gap and move towards self-sufficiency in fertilizers.

(d) and (e). Due to a severe constraint on resources, the Vth Plan Programme for setting up of additional capacity as envisaged at the time of preparation of the draft plan could not be taken up for implementation in its entirety and some projects had to be shelved as a result thereof. For the same reason, Cochin Phase III project proposed by FACT also could not be considered. A project at Cochin can be based only on fuel oil as the feedstock, and, therefore, in view of what is stated in (a), (b), and (c) above, it will have a low priority and may not qualify for sanction in the near future.

Proposal for Decontrolling FACT Ud-yogamandal Production

1222. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: