

(c) the annual production at the plant from 1986-87 to 1988-89;

(d) whether decline in production at other plants has also been reported during the last three years; if so, plant-wise details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to avoid closure of the plant and to avoid unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir; the Durgapur plant of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation had to be stopped from 27.3.89 due to fire in the start up heater coil of the ammonia plant. The agitation by the labour

of the ex-contractor is delaying the repair work of the damage equipment.

(c) The annual production from 1986-87 to 1988-89 is given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Production of Nitrogen in 000 M.T.</i>
1	2
1986-87	50.8
1987-88	58.0
1988-89	27.4

(d) The production in other plants during the last three years was as follows:

	<i>Production of Nitrogen in 000 M.T.</i>		
	<i>1986-87</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89</i>
Barauni	61.6	76.3	65.5
Namrup- I	8.8	4.6	4.1
Namrup-II	86.9	87.1	52.6
Namrup-III	- (*)	63.2	90.6

(*) Commercial production started in October, 1987.

(e) HFC has already engaged a contractor to repair the damaged equipment, however, this effort is being hampered by the agitating labour of an ex-contractor. The State Government has also been fully apprised of the situation.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED:
SHRI CHINITAMANI JENA:
SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:

Age limit for Motor Vehicles

496. SHRI HET RAM:
SHRI V. TULSIRAM:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to fix

an age limit for various types of motor vehicles in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the implications involved and the estimated number of vehicles of all types likely to be scrapped as a result thereof;

(c) the likely impact on the vehicle owners, particularly those belonging to the middle class; and

(d) whether Government propose to reconsider the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (RAJESH PILOT): (a) The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 under Section 59, empowers the Government to fix the age limits for various types of motor vehicles. This is an enabling provision. There is no proposal at present under consideration for specifying age limits of vehicles.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Protection of Indians in Sri Lanka

497. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA
WADIYAR:
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH:
DR. DATTA SAMANT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a serious situation has arisen in Sri Lanka following the call given by Janata Vimukti Peramuna (JVP) to boycott Indian goods and snap all links with Indian business organisations; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for the safety and security of Indians in that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The responsibility for providing adequate security to foreign nationals is that of the host Government. Government are in touch with the Sri Lankan Government in this regard.

Pakistan's Proposal Regarding Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

498. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA
WADIYAR:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARAD-
WAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has proposed to India to sign the nuclear test ban treaty; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b). Government have seen reports on Pakistan's proposals for a nuclear test ban treaty. Government are, however, of the view that due to its global implications there can be no bilateral or regional solution to the question of nuclear weapons proliferation.

Nhava Sheva Port

499. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operations at Nhava Sheva Port have been computerised;