

[*Translation*]

**Assistance under Hill Area
Development Programme**

1486. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether special Central assistance is given to some hilly regions of the country under Hill Area Development Programme;

(b) whether Planning Commission constituted an expert group for preparing a list of new hilly region of the country;

(c) if so, whether this group has submitted its report, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKHRAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Planning Commission has set up an Expert Group in 1986 to evolve appropriate criteria for delineation of hill areas and prepare a list of new hill areas of the country, which submitted its Report in February, 1987. The Planning Commission has considered the recommendations of this Group and decided that on account of the prevailing resource constraints, Hill Area development Programme may not be extended to any new hill area.

[*English*]

Gas based Fertiliser Plants

1487. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

the time by which the gas based fertiliser plants at Jagdishpur and Aonla in U.P. are likely to be allocated additional gas so as to enable them to double their capacities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The proposed project for doubling the capacity of the gas-based fertiliser plant of IFFCO has been allocated gas in principle. No such allocation has, however, been made for doubling the capacity of the Jagdishpur fertiliser plant.

**Handling Over Units of Coffee Board to
Private Parties**

1488. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHARS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board has taken a decision to hand over its units to the private parties;

(b) if so, the number of units proposed to be handed over to the private parties;

(c) the places where these units are located;

(d) the reasons for handing over these units to the private parties;

(e) whether a few vested interests wanted to grab these units under benami names; and

(f) whether the employees working in these units have opposed to privatisation.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) No, Sir.

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