

Education Commission, Zhu Kaixuan in November 1995; Vice Chairperson of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Qian Zhengying in December 1995; and Minister for Coal, Wang Senhao, in December 1995.

(d) During these visits, there were-ranging discussions on various aspects of bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest. These visits have helped in imparting an enhanced content to India's relations with China.

[Translation]

Development of Wasteland in Rajasthan

3310. SHRI KUNJEE LAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been launched for the development of wasteland in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated for the development of acidic soil, wasteland, as well as forestry in hilly areas of the State;

(c) if so, the names of the districts selected for these projects;

(d) the area of land in hectare likely to be included under these projects;

(e) by when the work on these projects is likely to start; and

(f) the number of persons likely to be benefited by these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAO RAM SINGH) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Kumaraswamy Mines

3311. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Government had urged the Union Government to transfer the Kumaraswamy Mines of NMDC to them so as to provide iron ore for the Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Plant;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated the terms and conditions for effecting such transfer; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c). A proposal has been received from Government of

Karnataka for advising NMDC to surrender Block 'C' of Kumaraswamy mine in Karnataka in order to assign it to Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Limited. The Government has not taken any decision in the matter.

[Translation]

Fertilizer Plants in Maharashtra

3312. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes formulated to set up new fertilizer plants in various parts of Maharashtra;

(b) whether there is any scheme under consideration for revival of sick fertilizer units in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the amount allocated for this purpose; and

(d) the additional quantity of fertilizers likely to be produced as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d). As per the Industrial Policy Statement issued by the Government on 24th July, 1991, no industrial licence is required for setting up a fertilizer plant. The entrepreneurs are free to set up fertilizer projects anywhere in India subject to environment clearance.

The Public Sector/Cooperative units under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers have adopted the following strategy to increase fertilizer production:

- (i) Expansion/retrofitting/revamping of existing fertilizer plants.
- (ii) Overcoming the constraints in the availability of natural gas, the preferred feedstock for manufacturing nitrogenous fertilizers, by setting up naphtha-based fertilizer plants and installing dual fuel/feedstock facilities in the existing plants and projects under implementation; and
- (iii) Setting up joint venture projects in countries having abundant and cheap raw material resources.

M/s Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd., a public sector company under the control of this Ministry, has submitted a proposal on 28th Nov., 1995 for setting up the third stream of 1350 TPD Ammonia and 2200 TPD urea at its Thal Complex.

The Ministry has no information of a fertilizer unit located in Maharashtra being declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.