

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

IFFCO Investment and Expansion Programme

*45. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI
SHRI ANIL BASU :

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

(a) whether IFFCO is investing substantial amount in Andhra Pradesh and foreign countries such as Iran, Senegal as a part of its expansion programme;

(b) whether IFFCO is going to spend on the revival of existing plants spread over the country to minimise import of fertilizers for the internal consumption; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :

(a) Under the prescribed procedure for investment approval, preliminary clearance has been accorded to IFFCO for setting up a fertilizer project consisting of 1350 Tonne per Day (TPD) ammonia and 2200 TPD urea plants at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 1568 crore. The project has a Debt: Equity ratio of 2:1.

IFFCO has studied the pre-feasibility of a urea production facility at Qeshm Island, Iran, in joint venture with Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) and Qeshm Free Area Authority.

With a view to securing the supply of imported phosphoric acid required for the expansion of its Kandla unit, IFFCO has decided in principle to invest in the proposed expansion project of Industries Chimiques du Senegal, an existing joint venture company in which IFFCO is a partner alongwith Government of India and Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Limited.

(b) and (c) The possibility of participation of IFFCO

in the revival of existing fertilizer plants was explored by the Government, but because of the commitments of IFFCO towards its on going expansion projects and joint ventures for augmenting fertilizer production capacity, no such proposal could materialise.

[Translation]

Supply of Inferior Quality of Foodgrains

*46. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether inferior quality of foodgrains are being supplied by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) through the Public Distribution network in several States;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of complaints received from various States and number of cases detected in this regard;

(d) the action taken by the Government in each case; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIERS, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No Sir, only good quality foodgrains of A&B category, free from insect infestation and Conforming to PFA standards are being supplied by FCI through the Public Distribution network in all the States.

(b) In view of (a) above Questions does not arise.

(c) and (d) Ten complaints were received from various States by the Government about the supply of inferior quality of foodgrains to PDS during 1995-96 and 1996-97. The complaints were properly referred to Food Corporation of India for Investigation and to take immediate remedial measures. Details of complaints received in the Ministry during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as follows:-

Date of Receipt	Subject	Latest Position
1	2	3
11.5.95	Quality of rice being supplied to PDS in Karnataka State – a press note published in the "Indian Express" dated 11.5.95	Remedial action taken by FCI and rice stocks after cleaning were issued to state Government.
22.5.95	Poor quality of wheat supplied under PDS in the Orissa State.	The complaint was investigated by the officer of QCC, Calcutta and was not substantiated
17.8.95	Issue of poor quality of rice through PDS in Delhi.	FCI took remedial measures to supply goods quality foodgrains for PDS in Delhi.
21.9.95	Quality of foodgrains issued from Food Corporation of India to Gujarat.	FCI has taken action to ensure goods quality foodgrains for PDS in Gujarat State.