

Bijaipur-Jagdishpur gas pipeline has been delayed ;

(b) whether six fertilizer plants programmed for commission by a particular date are dependent on this pipeline ;

(c) whether Government have changed their policy in regard to the allotment of work for the pipeline ; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The construction work was scheduled to commence in February 1985 ; now it is expected to commence after the ensuing monsoon season;

(b) This pipeline will meet the gas requirements of the six fertilizer plants ;

(c) Offers received in response to tenders are in process ;

(d) Does not arise:

Setting up of Gas-Based Giant Fertilizer Plants

1140. **SHRI MOHAMMAD MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN :** Will the Minister of **CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether implementation of most of the gas-based giant fertilizers plants in the country is likely to be considerably delayed ;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the factors responsible for delay in their implementation and the estimated cost of these projects likely to rise as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated by the Government to complete the projects as envisaged ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c) . The implementation of Vijaipur, Aonla and Jagdishpur Fertilizer projects has already commenced. The 'zero date' for Jagdishpur fertilizer project, which is under implementation by M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers and Chemicals Corpn. Ltd. (IGFCC) has, however, been shifted by about four months due to delay in finalisation of the consultancy contracts by the Company. The

impact of this delay on the cost of this project is yet to be determined. The progress of the three projects mentioned above is as per scheduled. The scheduled 'zero dates' for the remaining three fertilizer projects are given below :—

Sl. No.	LOCATION	Zero Date
1.	Billopa Village, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan.	1-4-1985
2.	Babrala, Badaun District, U.P.	1-10-1985
3.	Shahjahanpur District, U.P.	1-4-1986

The implementation and progress of these projects is reviewed and monitored periodically for ensuring that there are no delays in implementing them.

Replacement of Telephone Lines in Calcutta

1141. **SHRI AMAL DATTA :** Will the Minister of **COMMUNICATIONS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether about one lakh telephone lines in the city of Calcutta need immediate replacement in order to provide even the minimum telephone system to the residence of Calcutta;

(b) if so, the remedial action taken by Government in this matter; and

(c) the time by which necessary improvement is going to be made and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. It has been found desirable to replace about one lakh lines of exchange equipments in Calcutta.

(b) Replacement work of 44000 lines equipment is in progress.

(c) Remaining equipment is proposed for replacement during the Seventh Five Year Plan period.

Utilisation of Gas Available in Bombay High

1142. **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM** be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated reserves of gas available in Bombay High ;

(b) the total quantity of it being used by the fertilizer industry;

(c) the percentage of the remaining gas proposed to be given to other State Governments, the details thereof; and

(d) the total investment for this project and how much will be shared by the Union Government and how much by the State Governments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) The balance recoverable reserves in the offshore fields as on 1.1.84 were 378 billion cubic metres.

(b) The total quantity of Bombay High gas being used by the fertilizer industry is 5.10 million cubic metres per day.

(c) About 0.40 million cubic metres of gas per day is committed to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. About 0.05 million cubic metres per day is committed to the Bharat Electronics Limited at Talaja. About 0.15 million cubic metres of gas per day is committed to the Heavy Water Plant at Thal. With these, balance gas is not available for further commitments.

(d) Does not arise.

Expansion of Telecommunication Net Work

1143. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to give top priority to telepome network expansion;

(b) the Seventh Plan allocation for this sector;

(c) whether telex connection would be provided practically on demand by the end of 1990 ;

(d) whether Government propose to introduce GIRO FACILITY in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The need for adequate expansion of Telecommunication net work has been emphasized in the 7th Five Year Plan proposals.

(b) This is still under consideration of the Planning Commission.

(c) This would depend on the final plan allocation.

(d) and (e) . The case for introduction of GIRO facility as a postal function in India is under active consideration.

Fall in Production of Life-Saving Drugs

1144. SHRI M.MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that production of numerous life-saving drugs in the country has almost come to a halt resulting in short supply of a large number of basic drugs and threatening closure of drug manufacturing units;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for fall in the production of life-saving drugs; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c) . Production of some bulk drugs was affected because of inadequate availability of concentrated Nitric Acid and Industrial Alcohol.

One stream of the Nitric Acid Plants of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) had to be closed down due to objection from the State Government from the pollution angle. Following reports of shortage of concentrated Nitric Acid, the position was reviewed. RCF have been advised to ensure adequate availability of concentrated Nitric Acid to priority users like bulk drug manufacturers.

Imports of alcohol based intermediates are being allowed wherever necessary.