

Expansion of irrigational facilities in North-Eastern region

441. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to create and expand new irrigational facilities to increase production in North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the proposal would be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). An additional irrigation potential of about 3.83 lakh hectares is proposed to be created in the North-Eastern region during the VIIIth Plan through on-going and new irrigation schemes, which will provide irrigation facilities to increase agricultural production.

Allotment of sites for storage of Hazardous chemicals in inner and outer harbour areas of Visakhapatnam Port

442. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that the Vishakhapatnam Port Trust Authorities have been allotting sites in the inner and outer harbour areas to Private and Public Sector Undertakings for handling the storage of hazardous chemicals;

(b) the number of such units allotted sites and the details thereof;

(c) whether these hazardous chemical handling and storage units are in close proximity to the residential areas occupied by civil population and Naval Defence forces;

(d) whether the Port Authorities are proposing to allot sites to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation for transport of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) by cargo ships; and

(e) what remedial action is proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c). The Visakhapatnam Port Trust has allotted sites to two units which are engaged in the processing or manufacture of petroleum products/chemicals and to two units which propose to manufacture chemicals but are yet to be commissioned. These are—

(i) M/s. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited—511.03 acres for 99 years lease.

(ii) M/s. Coromandel Fertilizers Limited—490.52 acres for 50 years lease.

(iii) M/s. Andhra Petro Chemicals Limited—75 acres for 30 years lease. This unit is yet to be commissioned.

(iv) M/s. Godavari Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited—4.1104 hectares for 30 years lease. This unit is yet to be commissioned.

Irrespective of whether these units are near residential areas or not all these units are required to conform strictly to the existing laws and regulations regarding safety precautions.

(d) No proposal for allotment of site for this purpose has been received by the Port Authorities.

(e) Does not arise.

Polavaram project

443. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has received all the clarification from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in regard to Polavaram Project; and

(b) if so, what is the time frame within which final clearance for Polavaram Project is expected to be given?