

National Aluminium Company goes into full production in 1988, it is expected that there will be marginal surplus only for a few years, after which it is anticipated that the demand will once again overtake the supplies unless additional capacity is created. With a view of absorbing the temporary surplus situation, various steps including liberalisation of licensing policy for encouraging the uses of aluminium have been initiated by the Government.

Closing Down of Heavy Loss-Making Public Sector Fertilizer Units

773. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :
SHRI S. M. GURADDI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to close down the heavy loss-making public sector fertiliser units; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any decision with regard to closing down of the Rs. 187 crore Triple Super Phosphate Plant has been taken;

(c) the other fertiliser units that are proposed to be closed down; and

(d) how many workers will be rendered jobless and the steps proposed to be taken to absorb them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) and (b). It is proposed to close down the Sindri Rationalisation Plant (SRP) of Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) which had ceased production in October, 1984 due to poor quality of raw-material and design deficiencies.

(c) No decision has been taken to close down any other fertilizer unit.

(d) FCI has reported that 836 employees would be rendered surplus as on 31-1-87 due to the proposed closure of the SRP. A scheme of voluntary retirement for the surplus employees is being worked out.

Aid to Kerala for Drought Relief

774. SHRI MULIAPALLY-
RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI T. BASHEER :
SHRI P. A. ANTONY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of aid sought by Government of Kerala for drought relief for 1987;

(b) the quantum of aid provided; and

(c) the quantum of funds extended for drought relief to the State of Kerala for 1986 and how it was utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). The Government of Kerala submitted a Memorandum on 30th January, 1987 seeking Central assistance for expenditure of Rs. 119.50 crores for draught relief. The State Government has indicated that the Central Team should visit the State towards the end of March to make an on the spot assessment of the drought. In meantime a ways and means advance of Rs. 10 crores has been provided to the State. No Central assistance has been sanctioned to Kerala during 1986-87 for drought relief as the State Government did not submit any Memorandum to this effect.

World Bank Assistance for Karnataka Horticulture Project

775. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Government has submitted a project for integrated development of horticulture for implementation on that State with World Bank assistance;

(b) whether project has been cleared by the Planning Commission and is awaiting final clearance of his Ministry; and