

Italian Proposal for a Joint Venture Gas Based Fertilizer Project in Gulf Area

1349. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Italy has proposed that India join with it in a gas based fertilizer project in Gulf-area;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the project including its total cost and location;

(c) the share India would be getting and the benefit by joining this project; and

(d) when the project is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) to (d). There is no such proposal from the Government of Italy. However, M/s. Snamprogetti, a company incorporated in Italy, sent in December 1986 a pre-feasibility study for setting up a gas based fertilizer project an estimated cost of US \$ 309 million in Bahrain and certain other Gulf countries in association with an Indian Public Sector company. M/s. Snamprogetti have been asked to prepare a detailed feasibility report, without which, it is not possible to indicate the extent of Indian participation in the joint venture, time schedule for its implementation and the benefits likely to accrue therefrom.

Payment of Railway Freight Subsidy to Fertilizer Manufacturing Units

1350. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to stop payment of railway freight subsidy due to various fertilizer manufacturing units; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI R. PRABHU) : (a) and (b). There is no proposal for stopping payment of freight subsidy under Government's consideration at present. However, a group has been constituted by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for going into the modalities for calculation of primary and secondary freight based on ECA allocations.

Edible Oil Crushing Units

1351. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the effect on oil crushing industry (expellers) due to shortfall in oilseeds output owing to prevalent drought in the country; and

(b) whether Government propose to import oilseeds for smooth running of expellers and for making available oil-cakes for the cattle ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) It is reported that the capacity of units crushing oilseeds is under-utilized. Due to the drought, some fall in the production and the availability of oilseeds is anticipated. This may affect the capacity utilization of crushing units.

(b) It is proposed that 0.5 million tonne of oilseeds be imported on aid basis only and National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) would be the canalising agency. The actual imports, quantum, and the specific oilseeds to be imported would depend upon the source, availability etc. of aid for oilseeds. The limited import of oilseeds, if and when made will be regulated carefully by NDDB.

FACT Plan for Joint Venture with Algeria

1352. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :