

discount over the notified price of fertilizer of urea by the fertilizer companies; full exemption from excise duty and reduction of customs duty for a number of pesticides and pesticides-intermediate; reduction in the rate of interest on crop loans upto 7,500/- from 12.5% to 10% and on crop loans above Rs. 7,500/- to Rs. 15,000/- AND from 14% to 11.5%.

#### Subsidiary Industries at Rourkela

1273. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MAHANTY : Will the Minister of STEEL MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of licences issued to subsidiary industries at Rourkela and how many of them have started functioning and how many of them although secured licences since years have not taken any initiative to start the industries; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Rourkela Steel Plant does not issue licences to subsidiary industries but only registers them after they have gone into production. The Plant does not therefore, maintain information regarding the subsidiary industries which do not reach the production stage. Such monitoring is done by the Industries Department of the State Government.

[Translation]

#### D.T.C. Bus Service Between Delhi and Certain towns of Uttar Pradesh

†1274. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to operate Delhi Transport Corporation buses from Delhi to Almora, Ranikhet, Bagheshwar and Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, by what time; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Almora, Ranikhet etc. being hilly area, buses with small wheel base are required for operating this service. Proposal to procure such buses is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Ganga Action Plan

1275. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ganga Action Plan has reduced the level of pollution near the ghats of Varanasi;

(b) if so, the level of improvement; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Under the Ganga Action Plan 31 schemes at a cost of Rs. 34.86 crores have been sanctioned for Varanasi. Out of these, 9 schemes are for Interception and Diversion, 3 are Sewage Treatment Plants, 3 are for Low Cost Sanitation and 4 are for river front facilities such as sulabh sauchalayas and the remaining 12 are for other schemes, biological conservation, improvements in circulation etc. Work on 5 schemes have been completed, 2 other schemes namely the Sewage Treatment Plants at BHU and DLW are nearing completion and are likely to be commissioned shortly. Most of the schemes will be completed during the 7th Plan period. The work on the STP at Dinapur and the Pumping Station at Konia will spill over to the 8th Plan period.

(b) The qualitative improvement in the river can be assessed only after the works are completed.

(c) Does not arise.