

Cost of Production of Nitrogenous Fertilizers

4373. SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether Government of India have made comparative study of cost of production of nitrogenous fertilizers in our country with other leading countries with a view to take necessary steps to improve the efficiency of our plants and introduce latest technology so that Government are in a position to supply fertilizers at a cheaper price to our farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): The cost of production of nitrogenous fertilizers in the country has been studied by a committee set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri S. S. Marathe. However, data in respect of the cost of production of nitrogenous fertilizers in other countries is not available in a form in which they will enable us to make a comparison between their cost of production and the cost of production of nitrogenous fertilizers in India. The input prices vary as also the capital costs on account of different systems of fiscal levies.

It is the constant endeavour of Government to improve efficiency and maximise capacity utilisation by measures such as setting up of captive power generation units to ensure stable power supply, debottlenecking and renewals etc., with a view to augment indigenous production and reduce costs.

The Fertilizer industry in India is keeping abreast of the technological developments in the World and our attempt has always been to adopt the most modern technology consistent with our requirements and operating conditions.

Erection of Fertilizer Plants on the basis of Coal as a Feed Stock

4874. SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how many fertilizer plants are under erection where feed stock would be coal;

(b) what is cost of production of nitrogenous fertilizer from coal as a feed stock as compared to Naptha, crude or gas; and

(c) since the technology of manufacture of ammonia or nitrogenous fertiliser from coal based plants is not so well established in the world, what precautions Government are taking to ensure the success of these plants and the experience of Durgapur fertiliser plant is not repeated ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (c). Presently, two coal based fertilizer plants at Ramagundam and Talcher with a capacity of 152 thousand tonnes of nitrogen each are under implementation. Korba project which had also been taken up for implementation has been slowed down due to resource constraints. A plant of similar size and based on similar technology is in operation in South Africa. M/s Koppers who are the general contractors for the South African plant are also the contractors for the critical coal gasification section in the plants at Talcher and Ramagundam. Measures have been taken to ensure that the problems faced in the commissioning and operation of the South African plant, to the extent known to us, would not be repeated in India. Measures would also be taken to closely monitor the commissioning and performance of the two coal based plants with a view to indentifying problems and taking suitable remedial measures.

(b) The actual cost of production of fertilizers based on coal would be known only when the coal based plants go into production. However, the fertilizers Prices Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Shri S. S. Marathe has made cost projections in respect of the two coal based plants under erection at Talcher and Ramagundam. These projections reveal that at current cost, the cost of production of fertilizers based on coal as feedstock is likely to be higher than in the case of plants based on natural gas/naphthabut lower than in plants based on fuel oil at prevalent input prices.

रतलाम में इंडियन आयल डिपो को रिफाइनरी से प्राप्त माल

4875. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडेय : क्या पट्रोलियम तथा रसायन और उर्बरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1976-77 के दौरान रतलाम (मध्य प्रदेश) में इंडियन आयल डिपो को रिफाइनरी से कितना माल प्राप्त हुआ ;