

- (ii) A new B.G. line between Sabarmati and Gandhinagar (length 27.85 kms.; cost Rs. 2.85 crores).

Loss suffered by Gujarat State Fertilizer Company

8746. SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a loss of Rs. 5 crores within a short span of about two months has been incurred by the joint sector concern, Gujarat State Fertilizer Company;

(b) whether this loss has been suffered due to the alleged negligence and incompetence of high technical officers and it is feared that a further loss of Rs. 5 crores would be added during the next two months before these technical defects are repaired, taking to the loss to Rs. 10 crores in four months;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken in this regard by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) and (b). The Company which is a joint sector undertaking with equity participation by the State Government and the public, has been incurring a production loss of about 800 tonnes of urea per day due to the shut down of the second Urea Plant from 5th February, 1974.

(c) and (d). This shut down had to be taken due to leakage in the urea reactor caused by corrosion in the Titanium lining of the equipment. The damage was fairly extensive involving complex repairs calling forth

special skill and expertise and the services of experts from the suppliers of the equipment from Japan have been requisitioned. These experts are now engaged in locating and rectifying the defects. The work in this connection is expected to be completed by end of May, 1974.

At the company's request prompt assistance was given by the Govt. of India in securing the services of the Japanese technicians. The progress in regard to the repair work is being closely watched by Government

Agitation threat by Power Engineers

8747. SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

SHRI V MAYAVAN:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power engineers in the country have threatened a fresh agitation to demand parity with the IAS and better working conditions;

(b) whether All India Power Engineers Association has submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister in this regard; and

(c) if so, the step being taken to settle the issue amicably?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K C PANT)

(a) to (c). The All India Power Engineers' Federation have addressed the Prime Minister of India on 1st April, 1974 urging that the disparities between the 'Engineers' and 'IAS' be removed. They have also stated that their letter may be treated as a notice of their decision to take such action as they may consider necessary including mass casual leave, cease work and other steps to secure parity with the IAS. The matter is receiving attention.