

Review of Fertilizer Feed Stock Policy

8823. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to reconsider its fertilizer feed stock policy in the light of the crude availability from Bombay High region;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) which are the fertilizer plants proposed to be converted from coal-based to oil-based?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) and (b). It is Government's policy to diversify to the maximum extent possible the feedstock for fertilizer production and thereby ensure maximum utilisation of indigenous resources. This policy would also include utilisation of crude oil/associate gas that would be available from Bombay High.

(c) There is no proposal to switch over the coal based plants to oil-based plants. Three coal based plants are under implementation at the pit-heads near Talcher, Ramagundam and Korba.

Proposal to operate Five Offshore Rigs in Indian Waters

8824. SHRI D. D. DESAI:
SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether five offshore rigs would be in operation in the Indian waters in the near future;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the date and time by which they would start working?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) to (c). In addition to Sagar Samarat already in operation in Bombay High, two more offshore rigs are expected to be deployed in that area by September-November, this year. Surveys conducted in Bengal-Orissa and Kutch offshore basins have indicated structural possibilities. Data of the detailed seismic surveys done are being processed/interpreted. If the results are favourable, two more offshore rigs are expected to be in operation—one each in Bengal-Orissa and Kutch offshore areas after the ensuing monsoon.

Jhuggies Destroyed in Fire due to Gas Cylinder Explosion at Sarai Rohilla Station

8825. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any compensation has been given by the Northern Railway to its employees whose jhuggies had been destroyed in the gas cylinder explosion at the Sarai Rohilla railway station during the second week of April, 1975; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). A total sum of Rs. 3,600/- has been paid as ex-gratia relief to five Railway employees who were living in jhuggies in Delhi Sarai Rohilla and who suffered loss on account of the explosion of gas cylinders. The quantum of ex-gratia payment ranged from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1,000 depending upon the extent of loss suffered by the Railway employee concerned. The payments were made on the spot on 13th April, 1975.