

(c) whether coal based fertilizer plants can manufacture Urea, at least 20 per cent cheaper; and

(d) if so, the reasons for importing liquid ammonia for fertilizer plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir. But the capital investment required for a plant based on fuel oil or L.S.H.S. is higher than for a naphtha based plant. Operating cost will also be greater.

(b) Some temporary difficulties are being faced by the Indian Oil Corporation in the disposal of LSHS. These are, however, being overcome. The production of LSHS by 1970-71 is estimated at just under 2 million tonnes and a good proportion of it is likely to be used for power generation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As explained in the Statement laid on the Table of the House on 20-2-1968, the import of liquid ammonia for a limited period has been allowed in one case on a selective basis in consideration of its merits. This has been done in view of the overall requirements of fertilizers during the next 7 or 8 years.

FERTILIZER PLANTS

3633. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SHAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Trombay Unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India has developed a process which eliminates the use of sulphur; and

(b) whether the Planning and Development Division of Fertilizer Corporation of India has oriented its own Research and Development Programme on the above basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.
L/M13LSS(CP)/68—8

(b) The Planning and Development Division has undertaken Pilot Plant trials for the production of phosphatic fertilizers eliminating the use of sulphur.

MAHI IRRIGATION PROJECT, RAJASTHAN

3634. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that even though the Central Government had approved the Mahi Irrigation Project (Rajasthan) in 1958, the Planning Commission have not accorded its approval despite repeated requests from the Government of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for delay in its approval; and

(c) the stage at which the proposals rests at present?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) The project approved in 1958 was a medium irrigation scheme costing Rs. 308.76 lakhs only. The project now under consideration is estimated to cost about Rs. 30 crores.

(b) and (c). In the best interests of the Mahi river development it was considered necessary to change the storage capacity of the reservoir to a much larger amount than proposed earlier. The project has, therefore, been changed from a diversion scheme to a multi-purpose scheme costing about Rs. 30 crores and benefiting Gujarat also in addition to Rajasthan.

The project in its present form has been technically cleared by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Power Projects. The approval of the project by the Planning Commission has, however, been held up due to constraint on resources.

ALLOWANCES TO MANIPUR EMPLOYEES

3635. SHRI M. MEGHACHANDRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received request from the Government of