

Prices of Fertilizers

141. SHRI HIMATSINGKA: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp increase in the world fertilizer production over the last 3 years;

(b) if so, whether consequent thereto the prices of the different types of fertilizers have also gone down and, if so, what are the prevailing international prices of the different types of fertilizers and how far the same have come down over the period of 3 years;

(c) how the prevailing prices of the different types of fertilizers in India compare with the world prices; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to procure fertilizers at the minimum prices from abroad and at what lowest rates it has been possible for Government to import the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI IQBAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. There are no recognised international prices of fertilizers since sales are made at different prices to different countries depending upon specifications of material, time of delivery, bagging, payment terms and other considerations.

(c) Statement (Annexure-I) is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-134/68].

(d) Tenders issued by the Government are given wide publicity and negotiations are held wherever permissible. It is also proposed to enter into long term contracts with the manufacturers. Statements (Annexure-II) giving the prices of the various types of fertilizers purchased by this Department are laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-134/68].

Foreign Aid

142. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO:
SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA:
SHRI Y. A. PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign assistance which Government is likely to get from foreign countries during 1968-69 and 1969-70; and

(b) the break up of this amount, country-wise?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). The total amount of foreign assistance to be received during 1968-69 and 1969-70 will be known only after the bilateral loan negotiations are concluded with the lending countries' institutions for the respective years. However, at the meeting of the India Consortium held in May, 1968, some of the members indicated their intention to provide assistance in a total amount of \$297.33 million inclusive of debt relief during 1968-69. Country-wise break-up is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1347/68].

Off-shore drilling for Oil in Aliabet Island and Tapti Basin

143. SHRI B. N. SHASTRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russians are reluctant in coming up with the assistance they had offered to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for the Off-shore shallow water drilling for oil in the Aliabet Island and the Tapti Basin; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.