

(lateral) of 300 Metres level has just started.

- (iii) *Concentrator* : All the imported equipment and most of the indigenous equipment required for this plant has been ordered. Civil construction work is in progress.
- (iv) *Smelter* : Tenders for detailed and design on engineering work have been received and are under scrutiny. Some long delivery items of equipment needed for the plant have been ordered. Specifications of the remaining equipment are being finalised in consultation with the foreign consultants.
- (v) *Refinery* : The offer for refinery received from French Group is under examination.
- (vi) *Acid-cum-Fertilizer Plant* : Draft detailed P Project Report for this Plant has been received and is under examination.

(b) Different units of the Khetri Copper Complex are scheduled to be commissioned as under :

- (i) *Mine Production* : Production of ore at the rate of 2000 tonnes per day is scheduled to commence in 1970 from Khetri Mine and at the rate of 1600 tonnes per day from Kolihan Mine from 1971. The rate of production of ore is scheduled to rise gradually to about 8000 a day from Khetri (1976-77) and 2000 a day from Kolihan (1975-76).
- (ii) *Concentrator* : The first stream of the grinding mills of concentrator is scheduled to be commissioned in 1970 and second stream in 1971.
- (iii) *Smelter* : Smelter is scheduled to be commissioned in 1971.
- (iv) *Refinery* : Refinery is scheduled to be commissioned in 1972.
- (v) *Acid-cum-Fertilizer Plan* : Acid-cum Fertilizer Plant is scheduled to be commissioned in 1972.

(c) Excluding the acid and fertilizer plant for which the detailed project report is being prepared, the cost for the Khetri Copper Circuit and Kolihan Mine including the townships as estimated in October 1966, was Rs. 65.70 crores. As per the present estimates the cost is reckoned at Rs. 75.78 crores.

(d) The project is planned to produce 31,000 tonnes of electrolytic grade Copper metal and about 214500 tonnes tripple super phosphate (or 100,000 tonnes of P_2O_5) fertilizer. To this extent country will not have to rely on imports. This will save about Rs. 29 crores per annum in respect of copper imports and Rs. 12 crores per annum on fertilizer.

Committee to Study scope for increasing water Rates in states

2006. SHRI HIMATSINGKA:
SHRI D.N. PATODIA :
SHRI R. K. BIRLA :

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

(a) whether in a bid to help the State Governments to raise additional resources, the Planning Commission had recommended the setting up of a small Committee comprising representatives of the concerned ministries to study the scope for increasing the water rates sought in some six States :

(b) if so, whether such a Committee had been constituted, if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) whether a rise in the higher water rates is likely to increase the cost of agricultural production and the consequent rise in the prices of foodgrains and other agricultural products, if so, the specific steps being taken to avoid any undue burden on the cultivators and growers ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). The proposal for setting up a small Committee comprising of representatives of the concerned Ministries and the Planning Commission to study the scope for increasing water rates was under the consideration of the Planning Commis-

sion. During the Fourth Conference of the State Ministers of Irrigation and Power held in May, 1969, the question of water rates came up for discussion and the Conference recommended that States should appropriately increase the water rates on irrigation projects in pursuance of the policies already adopted and that in order to formulate practical steps for the purpose, zonal inter-State meetings should be held for the purpose of ironing out some of the difficulties involved. In view of this recommendation of the Conference, which is being pursued by this Ministry, the proposal of forming the Committee has been dropped.

The meeting of the Irrigation Ministers of the States in the northern region *viz.* Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh is proposed to be held shortly. The meetings of the Ministers of the States in the other regions are also proposed to be convened in the near future.

(c) The capacity of the farmers to bear the additional water rates will be kept in view, taking into account also the large additional benefits which accrue to them by the provision of irrigation waters.

Setting up of Fertilizer Credit Guarantee Corporation

2007. SHRI HIMATSINGKA :
SHRI BENI SHANKER
SHARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Fertilizer Credit Guarantee Corporation has since been set up ;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof and the precise functions and the mode of operation of this Corporation ; and

(c) the steps envisaged to ensure that the benefits of the Corporation reach the smallest farmer in the remotest corner of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The Fertilizer Credit Guarante

tee Corporation is expected to be set up soon.

(b) The proposed Fertilizer Credit Guarantee Corporation will be set up under the Companies Act, 1956 with an authorised capital of Rs. 10 crores, of which Rs. 1.5 crores is likely to be issued during the year. The share capital will be contributed by the Reserve Bank (60%), Government of India (10%), State Bank of India (5%) and the major commercial and State cooperative banks (25%). The Corporation will guarantee loans granted by commercial and cooperative banks for the stocking and distribution of fertilizer and other agricultural inputs to approved agencies. Guarantee cover by the Corporation will be up to a maximum of 65% of the amount in default. The Corporation will also operate a refinance scheme as a supplementary source of finance for the commercial and cooperative banks, over and above what is available from the Reserve Bank.

(c) It is envisaged that the guarantee and refinance schemes of the Corporation will facilitate stocking of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs by various distribution agencies at all levels including the retail centres and the retail agencies will, therefore, be in a position to supply fertilizers and other inputs on credit to the farmers.

Petro-chemical Corporation

2008. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Petro-Chemical Corporation proposed to be set up under public sector has since been constituted ;

(b) if so, the composition and structure of the Corporation and the names of its Directors and other office Bearers ; and

(c) the criteria followed in appointment of such Directors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) Yes. A company in the name of 'Indian Petro-chemi-