

(d) whether such centres will also be set-up and other steps taken in big cities like Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Kanpur, Lucknow etc. ; if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) to (c). According to the information received from the Delhi Administration, 20 such centres are proposed to be established. It is also contemplated to commission two mobile vans fitted with sample collecting equipment to collect samples of automotive exhaust, industrial gases, smoke, etc.

To start with, it is proposed to collect samples of dustfall, Sulphur dioxide, smoke, Carbon monoxide and oxide of Nitrogen. The samples would be collected from the industrial areas, heavy traffic centres, loco-motive sheds, power houses, congested localities and areas inhabited near stone crushing mills.

A central laboratory to test the samples collected with a view to determine the concentration of air pollutants is also proposed to be established.

The work is expected to begin as soon as the sampling centres are set up and other necessary arrangements are completed. The Financial implications are being worked out.

(d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Demand by Orissa Government for Setting up Fertilizer Plants in that State**

2163. SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU-DHURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Orissa Government have been demanding the setting up of some Fertilizer Plants in Orissa ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this demand has been accepted by the Central Government ;

(c) if so, their capacities, finance needed for them and their location ; and

(d) when the work on their construction is likely to begin and completed as also when the plants are likely to go into production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) to (d). Government have already approved the setting up of a coal based Fertilizer Plant at Talcher in Orissa. This will have an annual capacity of 228,000 tonnes in terms of Nitrogen, the end product being 495,000 tonnes of Urea. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 7049.26 lakhs with Rs. 1999.92 lakhs in foreign exchange. The foundation stone of this project was laid on 3.2.1970. Preliminary steps have been taken for the implementation of the project and it is expected to be completed by the end of 4th Plan. There is also a proposal to set up a Fertilizer plant at Paradeep in Orissa on imported Ammonia. The Fertilizer Corporation of India have been asked to prepare a techno-economic feasibility report for this project.

**Squeeze of Credit for grain Dealers**

2164. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether there is any proposal to squeeze credit for grain dealers ;

(b) if so, to what extent ; and

(c) whether this is being done to check rise in prices of food-grains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c). With a view to checking rise in prices and discouraging the speculative hoarding of commodi-

ties in short supply including foodgrains, the Reserve Bank of India has tightened the control on advances by banks against foodgrains. A directive was issued on 21st January, 1970, asking the banks to charge a minimum interest rate of 10 per cent on advances against foodgrains to dealers other than authorised agents of State Governments and the Food Corporation of India for food procurement operations. A minimum margin of 50 per cent was also fixed for advances against foodgrains except to the duly appointed agents of the Food Corporation of India against foodgrains stocks. Further, for each two month period beginning with January February 1970, a ceiling was fixed for each bank in respect of advances against the security of foodgrains at 80 per cent of the level maintained by it in the corresponding two month period of 1968. The position is continually under review by the Reserve Bank.

**Meeting of All India Council of Mayors in Delhi**

2165. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the All India Council of Mayors was held in Delhi in July 1970, and

(b) if so, the decisions taken therein ;

(c) whether the Mayors claim to property tax proceeds was rejected ; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) A meeting with the members of the Executive Committee of All India Council of Mayors was held under the chairmanship of the Minister of Health and Family Planning and Works, Housing and Urban Development in Delhi on the 9th July 1970, in pursuance of a decision of the

Seventh Conference of Municipal Corporation held in Madras in April 1970.

(b) The salient features of the recommendations made at the meeting are given below :—

(i) The Municipal Corporations may be divided into three categories on the basis of population for indentifying their problems, assessing their needs and finding solutions to solve them ;

(ii) The Municipal Corporations in other cities should study in detail the system of assessment of rateable value, etc., adopted in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Delhi and adopt such charges in their own system as were practicable with a view to stepping up the yield from this important source of income ;

(iii) The Chairman together with the Mayors should wait on the Finance Minister to impress upon him the urgent need for augmenting the financial resources of the Municipal Corporations and accepting the suggestions made and with regard to levy of property tax on Central Government properties.

(iv) Out of the State Plan allocations, a certain amount may be earmarked for the Municipal Corporations by the Planning Commission. This earmarking should also apply to the revolving fund set up recently for housing accommodations.

(v) The Ministry of food and Agriculture Community Development and Cooperation should examine the scheme for modernisation of slaughter house with a view to making available funds to the Municipal Corporations to undertake such projects. That Minister could urgently examine the possibility of making available loan