

Durgapur Unit

3031. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide Central assistance to H.F.C.I. Durgapur unit to start its production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this unit is likely to start its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC), which includes its Durgapur unit, stands referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) since 12.11.1992. Government has been extending budgetary support to HFC for meeting working capital requirements of its functional units and standing charges (salary/wages, preservation cost, etc.) of its non-functioning units including Durgapur unit. During the last three years, budgetary support extended to HFC and that allocated to Durgapur unit is as follows:—

(Rs./Crore)

Year	HFC	Allocation for Durgapur Unit
1996-97	152.34	59.54
1997-98	184.34	54.55
1998-99	178.00	38.00

Sustained and viable operation of Durgapur unit is not feasible unless a complete revamp of the plant is undertaken which is hampered by budgetary constraints and high cost of production. Hence, it will be possible to consider the resumption of production of Durgapur unit only in terms of the final decision of the Government on the revival of HFC.

[English]

Study Team on Handling of Foodgrains

3032. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI M. BAGA REDDY:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to attract investment from domestic and foreign companies in upgrading facilities for storage and handling of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a study team to look into the problems of handling of foodgrains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (e) A Steering Committee was constituted by the Government in the Department of Food & Civil Supplies, Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs to examine the question of upgradation of technology, particularly for bulk storage and bulk handling and transportation of foodgrains in India. The Committee has since submitted its Report. A Task Force has been set up in connection with implementation of the Steering Committee's recommendations.

Concession to Housing Activities

3033. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought fiscal concessions to boost housing activities and encourage private participation;