

assistance are still pending with the Government particularly in the case of Kerala; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. ICAR/DARE has not set up any Agricultural Information Network Centre in the country. It has, however, initiated an Agricultural Research Information System (ARIS) to interlink various ICAR Institutes/State Agricultural Universities and Zonal Research Stations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Foodgrains Production

*177. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated foodgrains production in the country by the year 2000 according to estimates of the FAO and Planning Commission;

(b) whether the Government propose to amend targets of the foodgrains production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The Planning Commission in the Eighth Five Year Plan Document have projected foodgrains production for the year 2001-02 at 245.0 million tonnes for the country as a whole. The FAO projection of the estimated foodgrains production in the country is placed at 201.7 million tonnes for the year 2000.

(b) and (c). The projected foodgrains production for the country would be looked into, at the time of finalising the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[English]

Investment in Fertilizer Sector

*178. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the approved investment in PSUs in the Fertilizer sector during the eighth five year plan and the targets set for production;

(b) whether most of the PSUs failed to execute their projects involving fresh investment during the first three

years of the Eighth plan thereby adding to the pressure of utilising the investible funds during the last two years;

(c) if so, the projects for which approval of fresh investment was sought by the fertilizer companies and reasons for slow progress in utilisation of funds; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that funds allocated for investment for the current year are fully utilised and actual status of the projects for which fresh investment has been granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b). An outlay of Rs. 5352 crore was approved for the public/cooperative undertakings in the fertilizer sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan. The total plan expenditure in the first three years of the Eighth Plan period was Rs. 1106.17 crore. The investment shortfall in the first 3 years of the Plan with reference to the approved outlay was mainly on account of the disruption in the fertilizer sector following partial decontrol in 1992-93 and delays in the finalisation of the investment proposal of the public/cooperative undertakings. Investment in the sick fertilizer PSUs was also restricted pending finalisation of their rehabilitation schemes.

The plan expenditure during 1995-96 increased to Rs. 1613.47 crore. The outlay for 1996-97 is Rs. 2660.17 crore.

The target for production in the terminal year of the Eighth Plan i.e 1996-97 was set at 98 lakh MT per annum (MTPA) of nitrogen nutrient and 30 lakh MTPA of phosphate nutrient.

(c) The following investment proposals based on detailed feasibility reports were approved during the first three years of the Eighth Five Year Plan :

S. No.	Name of the Project	Estimated capital cost (Rs. crore)	Production envisaged (in lakh MTPA)	Expected date of commissioning
1.	IFFCO'S Aonla Expansion Project	960.00	Urea 7.26	1.1.1997
2.	IFFCO'S Phulpur Expansion Project	993.00	Urea 7.26	20.1.1998
3.	IFFCO'S Kalol Expansion Project	119.08	Urea 1.50	1.9.1997
4.	NFL's Vijaipur Expansion Project	987.30	Urea 7.26	31.3.1997
5.	Revamp of MFL's plants	487.47	Urea 0.70	31.3.1997
6.	New ammonia plant of FACT	618.00	Ammonia 2.97	30.6.1997

Government had also approved, in principle, a revival package for FCI and HFC in April, 1995 envisaging a fresh investment of Rs. 2201 crore at 1994 price levels. It was, however, stipulated that the fresh funds required for revamp should be obtained