

(a) the criteria for the allocation of naphtha to the States for petrochemical industries;

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has made a request to the Union Government for allocation of naphtha for production of soda ash, urea, diamond phosphate and to set up a petro-chemical complex in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government on the said request?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Sabic Subsidies

3158. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Petrochem makes irked at FIPB clearance to Sabic Subsidiary" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated July 12, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reasons for clearance to sabic subsidiary;

(d) the likely impact on the Indian Petrochem industry; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to boost the products of Indian Petrochemicals Industry?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) FIPB cleared the proposal on the grounds that in this proposal, foreign equity was 51% only and there were no policy/restriction on trading by foreign joint ventures in petrochemicals/plastics, besides the item is on OGL.

(d) and (e) Indian companies will be exposed to greater competition which in turn, will require them to be more competitive both price-wise and quality-wise. Except for certain hazardous process based petrochemical products, production of all petrochemical products has been delicensed. This provides an opportunity to the Indian petrochemical industry to develop itself to international standards.

Fishermen Training Facility

3159. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up centres to provide training facilities for the benefit of fishermen in the coastal areas of Southern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of centres likely to be established for the purpose along with the location thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) To provide training facilities for the benefit of fishermen, the Government have sanctioned the establishment/upgradation of 12 training centres in the Southern States under various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes as per the details furnished in the Statement attached.

(c) As and when proposals in this regard are received, these will be examined.

Statement

List of Training Centres for the benefit of fishermen in the Southern States

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of the Scheme			Total
		Fresh water Aquaculture	Brackishwater Aquaculture	Fisheries Training & Extension	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	2	4
2.	Karnataka	1	-	2	3
3.	Kerala	1	1	-	2
4.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	1	3
Total:		4	3	5*	12

* Sanctioned for upgradation of existing centres.

[*Translation*]

Release of Forest Land for Dolomite Mines

3160. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to release 100 acres forest land from the forest range in Hesaldagh area in Garhwa district of Bihar is lying pending with the Government for operation of dolomite mines by the Steel Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in according approval to this proposal; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Karnataka Milk Federation

3161. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first ice cream plant of the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has been commissioned in Bangalore recently;

(b) if so, whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) would be incharge of technical supervision till the federation become self-reliant;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has assisted this ice-cream plant; and

(e) if so, the amount of assistance given by NDDB along with the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Karnataka Milk Federation would take care of the technical supervision.

(d) and (e) A financial assistance of Rs. 205 lakhs was given by the NDDB for this project. Of this, Rs. 60 lakhs had been provided under Operation Flood-III on 70% loan 30% grant basis, carrying interest @10% per annum on the loan portion and the remaining Rs. 145 lakhs was financed as spill over project after the termination of OF-III on 100% loan basis carrying interest @14% per annum.

Subsidy on Fertilizers

3162. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy paid by the Government on fertilizer during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96 till date, State-wise;

(b) whether any subsidy was also paid on nitrogenous fertilizers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) At present Urea is the only nitrogenous fertilizer subject to Statutory Price Control and for which subsidy is borne by Government. The subsidy is paid to the Urea manufacturing units/pool handling agencies and not to the States. Hence details are not available State-wise. In addition Government gives a concession on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, mainly Di-Ammonium Phosphate, Singal Super Phosphate, Muriate of Potash and Complexes. This is paid to the manufacturers/importers, and details are not available State-wise. Subsidy paid on fertilizers under Statutory Price Control and concession paid on phosphatic and potassic fertilizers during 1994-95 and 1995-96 is indicated below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Subsidy paid on controlled fertilizers	Concession paid on decontrolled fertilizers
1994-95	5241.00	527.95
1995-96	6235.00	500.00

Change in Crop Pattern

3163. SHRI N. DENNIS :
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great change in the cropping pattern in the country from foodgrain crops in non-foodgrain crops in recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this rapid change in the cropping pattern may ultimately lead to the shortage of foodgrains production;