

**Title:** Need to take necessary steps for revival of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. Durgapur Unit, West Bengal.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): To save the farmers of West Bengal as well as Eastern Zone, the Union Government should come forward and assure the House for the revival of H.F.C.L., Durgapur Unit. The total annual requirement of urea in the State is little more than 10 lakh tonne. After stoppage of production in Durgapur Unit from June, 1997, the State has become totally dependent on the external supply of urea. Haldia was not allowed to run. Now, both the plants along with other plants of H.F.C.L. at Barauni, Bihar and Namrup, Assam, stand referred to B.I.F.R. since 1992.

(e2/1415/ru-har)

Average consumption of fertiliser in West Bengal at present is 120 kilograms per hectare against the national average of about 90 kilograms per hectare. So far as the demand of fertiliser is concerned, West Bengal occupies the sixth position in the country. West Bengal consumes 16 per cent of the extra amount of fertiliser which is required at the national level to cop up with the increasing demand and in this respect, West Bengal occupies the fourth place.

I urge upon the Union Government to switch over to natural gas for their efficient viable running than naphtha and oil-based.

The major gas reserves which are being developed for converting NG to LNG for export lie in the North West Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and countries all along Gulf Coast, namely, Oman, Qatar, etc.

On consideration for identifying the source is the location of terminal. Any Eastern Coast terminal will be well served by the source of supply from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Australia as it will have lesser ferrying time and cost. The terminal based on the Eastern Coast near Haldia can cater to the needs of inland fertiliser plants such as Durgapur, Haldia, Barauni, Sindri, Gorakhpur and others.

I request the Union Government to ensure that HFCL, Durgapur Unit, starts its production very soon and others will be revived. (ends)