

d) working upto 500 mt. water depth. As a part fulfillment of the joint technology development agreement, an existing crawler at IKS was refurbished, modified and augmented with a manipulator, slurry pump, cutting systems, control system, necessary instrumentation systems and accessories by the joint teams. This mining system after completion of evaluation at Germany was shipped to India for testing in the Indian water. Preliminary trial for launching, maneuvering, retrieving, etc. were done at about 60 m. depth off Malvan coast near Goa. Further test to demonstrate the sand mining in Indian waters off Tuticorin coast during March/April, 1999 is proposed. During testing the performance of all the subsystem and the integrated mining system will be evaluated besides the sand mining demonstration. After successful performance of the demonstration in Indian water, a joint design report for deep sea mining would be prepared. Basic engineering and specifications of a mining complex module capable of operating at 6000 mts. depth with mining capacity of 25,000 tonnes of nodules per year has also been started under this joint collaboration.

(d) The total estimated cost for implementation of the first phase of this programme is Rs. 16.09 crore. The development of deep seabed mining system and testing upto a depth of 6000 mts. would be taken up in subsequent phases for which the detail proposals are yet to be prepared for getting necessary approval of the Government. The Polymetallic nodules contain Copper, Nickel, Cobalt and Manganese. Department has initiated R&D and pilot scale project to extract these valuable metals. Process parameters are planned to be established in the coming years to establish realistic techno economic viability of a commercial metallurgical plant. As can be seen the efforts are R&D and pilot scale demonstration in nature yet. Hence it is premature to make assessment of the value in terms of money to be explored.

Self Financing Universities

2062. SHRI A.C. JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special task force constituted by the Ministry has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details alongwith wide-ranging recommendations thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to establish self-financing universities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) With a view to suggesting amendments to the UGC Act, 1956, to provide for suitable safeguards against the incidence of fake universities as also to empower the Commission to cope with the emerging challenges with confidence and to strengthen and restructure the Commission, the Government of India had constituted a Task Force that has since submitted its report on 15th February, 1999.

The important recommendations of the Task Force include (a) provision for five whole-time members in the Commission in addition to the Chairman; (b) punishment with imprisonment for a term ranging between one year and three years and/or fine ranging between one lakh and 10 lakh rupees for contravention of the provisions of Sections 22 and 23 of UGC Act; (c) provision for affording opportunity for establishment of private or self-financing universities in the country, subject, of course, to the observance of the prescribed rules for establishment of such universities; and (d) provision for the regulation of the functioning of foreign universities/institutions in respect of any programmes in India and also recognition of universities or institutions which confer degrees/diplomas/certificates.

(c) and (d) In the context of resource crunch faced by the Government, the UGC was asked to evolve guidelines for establishment of self-financing universities. The guidelines submitted by UGC were considered by the Government in consultation with the Ministries/agencies concerned and the Government introduced "The Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 1995" in the Rajya Sabha to provide for establishment of self-financing private universities in the country and to regulate their functioning by enacting an enabling legislation on the subject.

Fertilizer Projects

2063. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing fertilizer projects in the country both in public and private sectors;

(b) the present status of each project alongwith the target date of completion;

(c) the initial cost estimate of the projects and the anticipated cost on the completion of the projects; and

(d) annual capacity of production of fertilizer of each plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (d) The details of the major fertilizer projects under

implementation in the country at present are given in the *Statement* enclosed. The projects of Public/Cooperative Sector undertakings under implementation at Kandla, Gujarat and Namrup, Assam are progressing as per schedule, and have not reported any time or cost overruns. Details regarding private sector fertilizer projects are based on information provided by the project authorities.

Statement

Details of Major Fertilizer Projects under Implementation in the Country

S. N.	Name of the project, location and company/cooperative	Estimated capital cost (Rs. Crore)	Addl. Production envisaged		Zero date	Approved/original date of commissioning	Status
			Product	Capacity (In Lakh MTPA)			
1.	Expansion project of IFFCO Kandla, Gujarat (Phase-II)	212.20	NPK DAP	3.70 2.27	22.1.97	22.10.99	The overall physical progress at the end of Jan., 99 was 87.76% against the target of 87.73%
2.	Expansion project of Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd., Gadepan, (Phase-II), Rajasthan	1256.00	Urea	7.75	25.12.96	31.12.99	Implementation as per schedule
3.	Oswal Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd., (New) Paradeep, Orissa	1832.00	DAP NPK NP	15.00 3.20 1.00	Sept., 97	Sept., 99	Implementation as per schedule
4.	Duncan Industries Ltd., (Expansion) Kanpur, U.P.	636.38	Urea	1.63	1.1.98	May, 2003	Implementation commenced
5.	Godavari Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (GFCL) Kakinada, A.P.	99.13	DAP	2.8	5.1.98	31.12.01	Implementation as per schedule
6.	Hind Lever Chemicals Ltd., Haldia, West Bengal	88.31	DAP/ NPK	4.00	23.2.98	April, 99	Implementation as per schedule
7.	Revamp of Namrup Plants of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC), Namrup, Assam.	350.00	Urea	3.28	2.11.98	1.5.2001	The cumulative physical progress till Jan, 99, is 1%