

March, 1986 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos.

83 to 85 relating to the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Coal."

The Motion was adopted.

*Demands for grants for 1985-86 in respect of Ministry of Steel Mines and Coal voted by the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 25th March, 1985		Amount of Demand Grant for voted by Lok Sabha	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
<b>Ministry of Steel, Mines and Coal</b>					
83.	Department of Steel	2,43,11,000	1,17,32,83,000	12,15,60,000	5,86,64,17,000
84.	Department of Mines	20,47,79,000	50,24,16,000	1,09,89,00,000	1,47,12,84,000
85.	Department of Coal	24,74,48,000	1,77,50,01,000	1,23,72,44,000	8,87,50,05,000

14 21 hours

**(ii) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand No. 9 relating to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers for which 6 hours have been allotted.

Hon. members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demand for Grant have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case

any member finds any discrepancy in the list he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

Motion moved :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1986 in respect of the heads of the Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 9 relating to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers."

*Demands for grants for 1985-86 in respect of Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers submitted to the vote of the House*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 25th March, 1985		Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
<b>Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers</b>					
	Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers	2,06,31,51,000	27,27,83,000	10,35,04,22,000	2,58,24,17,000

**SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY** (Nalgonda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, fertilisers and chemicals are the key inputs for the development of agriculture. 70 per cent of population in India depend upon agriculture. Therefore, development of agriculture is a must. The key inputs should be supplied at a cheaper rate to the farming community but even after 37 years of Independence we are not producing enough fertilisers and we have not made ourselves self-sufficient in this field.

During 1983-84 about 35.6 lakh tonnes of nitrogen and 10.56 lakh tonnes of phosphate fertilisers have been produced indigenously and 6.56 lakh tonnes of nitrogen and 1.3 lakh tonnes of phosphate and 5.56 lakh tonnes of potash fertilisers have been imported which cost nearly Rs. 365 crores. This is a very unfortunate thing. We have got both technology and raw-material but we are not properly utilising them. Hence there is unnecessary drain on our foreign exchange resources.

14.25 hours.

[*Shrimati Basava Rajeswari in the Chair*]

The estimated production of nitrogenous fertiliser is 39 lakh tonnes against the production capacity of 55.6 lakh tonnes and 12.5 lakh tonnes of phosphoric fertilisers as against 16.15 lakh tonnes of phosphoric fertilisers during 1984-85. This clearly indicates the gap between production and utilisation capacity. I do not know how the Minister will ensure the standard 80 per cent of utilisation of production capacity. We are very much less compared to some other countries in respect of utilisation of fertilisers per hectares. The Indian farmers are using 39.9 k. g. per hectare of chemical fertilisers which is very much less when compared with other countries. It is 111.6 k.g. per hectare in USA; 154.5 k.g. per hectare in China and 81 k.g. per hectare in USSR. We have got nearly 60 million hectares of irrigated area available in our country which has the potentialities to produce 300 million tonnes of foodgrains if proper care is given. But at the rate at which we are going, I very much doubt whether we may be producing that much in future.

Now, coming to fertilisers manufacture, first, for the manufacture of fertilisers we were using naphtha. Now thanks to the scientists and technologists we have developed the coal based fertilisers industries. Two coal based industries have started in India at Ramagundam and at Talcher. I don't know why they have not started them simultaneously and completed them. If they have not got enough fund they should have started one unit first and completed it and then only they should have gone for the second unit. Due to cost escalation the cost of the project is going up 3 or 4 times more. This is the case of any project anywhere in the country. I request the Minister at least to take up these two projects and complete them and then only proceed for the next ones.

We are fortunate enough to have oil and gas in our Bombay offshore and now we are switching over to gas based fertiliser. Two industries have already been started. I request the Minister to complete these two and then only proceed to other units wherever they may be necessary. Either they may be in clusters or you may resort to pumping of gas to other places and establish factories there, whichever is economical. By the end of the 7th Plan our fertilisers requirement would be 92.5 lakh tonnes of urea and 28.9 lakh tonnes of phosphoric fertilisers. If the fertiliser industry is not provided more money they will not be able to produce this much quantity and we will have to go in for imports.

Coming to budget allocations, during 1985-86, Rs. 1531 crores have been provided in the said Demand as against Rs. 1818 crores during 1984-85. (Revised Estimates). Under the retention price scheme Rs. 1,200 crores have been provided. Under various subsidies to chemical pesticides, Rs. 105 crores have been provided. Rs. 153 crores have been provided for on-going schemes. If the Minister takes it up seriously we may even reduce this Rs. 1200 crores of foreign exchange. To a great extent, we may be able to develop our own indigenous fertiliser units.

Sir, we have got many sick units in our country which have to be nourished and strengthened. Fertiliser Corporation of India has got 5 major units, namely, Sindri modernisation, Sindri rationalisation, Talcher

and Ramagundam with a total installation capacity of 8.0 lakh tonnes of nitrogen, out of which the production is only 3.47 lakh tonnes. This is equivalent to 43% capacity utilisation. Sir, the National Fertilisers Limited has four units under its control, namely, Nangal, Nangal Expansion, Bhatinda and Panipat with a total installed capacity of 7.02 lakh tonnes. The present capacity utilisation of these four units works out to only 69%. I would request the hon. Minister to provide sufficient funds for the on-going schemes so that production may increase and the units are strengthened.

Sir, it is commendable that units like Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd., and Madras Fertilisers are having reasonably higher capacity utilisation in some of their units and they are doing well. There is no marketing problem for any of the fertiliser factories. The Demand for fertiliser is so much that we are not able to cope with the indigeneous production. Instead of importing substantial quantities of fertilisers, we should try to improve the capacity utilisation of all the existing units in the best interest of the nation.

Sir, we have got many project development consultancy agents. But we are not utilising the indigenous technology in the production fields. For everything we are depending on foreign countries. Even in the case of equipments to be installed in such of these units, 70% of the equipments are available indigenously. I would request the hon. Minister to make sure that the entire equipment available indigenously be utilised so that foreign exchange to that extent is saved. No doubt chemical fertilisers are the key inputs for agricultural development, but with the constant application of the fertilisers to the soil year after year it is likely to deteriorate the soil fertility and texture. This will have a harmful effect on crop yields. After ten or fifteen years, the soil is likely to lose fertility. So I would request the hon. Minister to go in for more use of organic fertilisers simultaneously by indigenous production. We should develop bio-gas and leguminous micro-bacteria which help produce natural nitrogen in the soil. The continuous and indiscriminate and imbalanced use of fertilisers in the soil would make the soil alkaline or acidic.

Another point I would like to submit is that the fertilisers is generally packed in

plastic bags whenever we import this item. The indigenous fertilisers should also have the same packing system and this would avoid wastage as well as contamination.

Now, coming to the pesticides. Sir, per capita consumption of pesticides in our country is very low compared to other countries like Japan, Europe and the USA. More than 50 technical grade pesticides are manufactured in India. At present, we are importing about 9,000 tonnes of pesticides from foreign countries. We are producing 62,000 tonnes of pesticides indigenously. We can meet our shortage of pesticides by proper utilisation of full capacity of the existing units. The most unfortunate thing is that many private companies are manufacturing spurious pesticides and they are coming into the markets. These adulterated spurious products are even available in my district, Guntur, where many people are selling the products with duplicate brand names. The spurious adulterated products are causing irreparable loss to the farming community.

All the pesticides should be brought under the Price Control Order. At present, some pesticides are not there and different companies are charging different rates. Rates for the various pesticides, therefore, need to be fixed on similar basis.

Then, certain toxic pesticides are being manufactured and used in our country even now. Many countries have banned toxic pesticides like BHC, DDT and Parathene; these have got residual effect. We are, however, using them and playing with the human life and cattle life. These pesticides not only kill predators and parasites but they also kill other insects which are useful to the human beings. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to see that these harmful pesticides are banned immediately.

The Pesticide Act, of course, does not concern this Ministry, but it is not as effective as it should be to prosecute the offenders. Some more teeth have to be put in this Act to prosecute the offenders. The banning of toxic pesticides, as I said, is very essential, as it is causing nuisance and it is affecting the ecology and environment of the area.

Further, expansion of pesticide industry in the rural areas is a must. These should be away from the cities. The recent

Bhopal tragedy is the uppermost in our mind. Any pesticide industry should be at least 50 km away from a city. I hope, the hon. Minister will make sure and will take suitable action whenever a question for given licence to such an industry comes up.

Though many pesticides are there in the market, the availability of fungicides and selective herbicides must be ensured in the rural area in the required quantities. I would request the Minister to ensure that selective herbicides are supplied to the farmers at cheaper rates.

Now, I come to the chemicals. Chemical industry is a highly technical oriented industry. It has got many organic and inorganic chemicals and we have to develop sufficient quantity of caustic soda, soda ash, chloride, organic chemicals, phenol, methanol, formaldehyde acetone and acetic acid etc. All help should be given to the small scale industries in the rural areas. Much incentives have to be given to prime rural development and to help rural people. For that, liberalisation of licencing policy is welcome. That would help the rural masses to have more and more industries in the rural areas.

Then, shortage of alcohol is causing a great concern to the public. During the year 1983-84, a large quantity of sugarcane was produced, but due to market difficulties, the farmers have not grown sugarcane during 1984-85. Consequently, we are going to be short of alcohol. Our State Government has fixed Rs. 220 per tonne as the cane price in Andhra Pradesh for giving encouragement to the growers. I think that the same system should be followed everywhere all over the country.

Plastic industries should be encouraged. Plastic is now being put to many uses like utensils of daily use, toys etc. In fact, plastic has replaced iron and steel in many areas and it is very cheap and helpful to the poor people. Small scale and cottage industries in plastic should be spread all over the country and more licences should be given for this liberally. So also, the dye and paint industry should be developed in our country. Large amounts and more incentives should be given to the chemical, plastic and all these other industries.

Now, coming to drugs, drugs are life-saving and essential. We are not getting good drugs in rural areas. Spurious drugs come into the open market and people are making a racket of it. This Drugs Act is under the Minister only and I request that stern action should be taken against the offenders and they should be prosecuted. Many multi-national companies are involved in it. Then, the licensing policy should also be liberalised. It should be made a small scale industry and it should be rural based.

There are two drug manufacturing companies, viz. the IDPL and the Hindustan Antibiotic Company. They have not developed any internal resources so far. They have got all facilities. But due to the lack of proper managerial skills, these two companies have not been getting profits. I hope the hon. Minister will look into the matter and see that these companies produce more and more useful drugs essential for human life.

I would also like to mention about the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceuticals. It is said on our part that even after providing two to three hundred crores of rupees every year, we are not able to produce more drugs as was expected by us. Hence I request the Minister that this may kindly be looked into.

Lastly, with regard to fertilizers, pesticides and even drugs, quality is a must. We should aim at quality, quantity and cheaper rates. We should develop indigeneous technology using indigenous skills. Our motto should be rural oriented and rural based and the licensing system should also be liberalised. These industries should go to the poor and economically backward people, which would help the unemployed and other backward classes. Thank you.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA  
RAO (Vijaywada) : I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced to RE. 1."

[Failure to improve the working of Hindustan Antibiotics' plant at Pimpri.]  
(2)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced to RE. 1."

[Failure to manufacture more vaccine for measles to control widespread transmission of measles.] (3)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to expedite action on the proposed Nagarjuna fertiliser project at kakinada.] (4)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to improve the performance of the plant of Fertilizer Corporation of India at Ramagundam.] (5)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to review functioning of Hindustan Insecticides which is engaged in production of dangerous banned insecticides.] (6)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check malfunctioning of the Units of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals and review its monopolistic functioning.] (7)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check malfunctioning of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited.] (8)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to review the working of Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited.] (9)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check malfunctioning of Fertilizers Corporation of India.] (10)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check malfunctioning of Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited.] (11)

SHRI R. P. DAS (Krishnagar) : I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to commission the Haldia fertilizer unit of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited.] (17)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to improve the performance of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited.] (18)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to step up development of Bengal Immunity Limited with a view to making the unit economically and commercially viably.] (19)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to help Smith Stainstreet Pharmaceuticals Limited, to achieve its full potential in the manufacture of drug formulations.] (20)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to abolish the loan licence system in pharmaceutical industry which defeats the drugs policy of the Government.] (21)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to construct buildings for head office and residential quarters for staff of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, Dehri-on-Sone, Bihar.] (22)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to modernise the plant of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited at Gorakhpur.] (23)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to take over the management of M/s. Dey-Se-Chem. Ltd., Calcutta, which stopped manufacturing life saving bulk drug Chloramphenicol.] (24)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide a leading role to the public sector undertakings of the Ministry.] (25)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to ensure quality control of all drugs.] (26)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to attain quick self-sufficiency in the production of drugs with a view to reducing the quantum of imports.] (27)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to abolish brand names and introduce generic names for all drugs with assured quality.] (28)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to establish a national corporation for the distribution of drugs.] (29)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for comprehensive legislation to ban production of hazardous drugs in the interest of public health.] (30)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to ensure availability of safe, essential and quality drugs in consonance with the health needs of the people.] (31)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to eliminate irrational, useless and hazardous drugs.] (32)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to prepare a graded priority list of drugs.] (33)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to make drugs available to the public at a low price, particularly the essential drugs.] (34)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to attain self reliance in drug technology.] (35)

"That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to foster and encourage the growth of the Indian drug industry.] (36)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DALCHANDER JAIN (Damoh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support Demand No. 9 for Rs. 1035 crores on Revenue Account and Rs. 258 crores on Capital Account whole heartedly. At the same time, I also support the policy of the Government.

I want to draw the attention of the House to one thing. It is true that the output increases with the use of chemical fertilizers, but the produce loses its original taste which is there otherwise of chemical fertilizers are not used. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the production has certainly increased, but research should be conducted as to how the original taste of the produce could be preserved and nutritional value not reduced and information to this effect should be given to our farmers.

Rock phosphate is available in abundance in Sagar district of our Madhya Pradesh State. A licence was issued there for setting up a Super Rock Phosphate Plant, but it has been cancelled. Another application for

licence, it is learnt, is pending and that proposal is for the setting up of a plant in the joint sector in Madhya Pradesh. If that plant is set up there, Sagar district will have an industry. Raw material is available there in plenty.

I want to say a few words about my hon. colleagues. They criticise the Government and give suggestions also. I want to tell them that if their criticism is accompanied by suggestions as to how improvement could be brought about, it will be a good tradition, a nice practice.

Another thing which I want to bring to your notice is that once a note is put up by the Secretariat that this work cannot be done, than ultimately, the Minister also has to endorse their stand that this work cannot be done and if next time another note is put up saying that this work can be done, the work is done. Such kind of discrepancy should be done away with.

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS :** Not discrepancy, the key is with the officers.

**SHRI DALCHANDER JAIN :** What I mean to say is that the officers are also citizens of this country, they are our brothers. They should take interest in the progress, development and production of the country, but when such things happen anywhere, we are pained. This system should be changed.

There is another point which I want to raise. Our hon. Minister had send that the officers who did good work would be given incentive and those who fared badly would be punished. I would like to know whether responsibility has been fixed or not in respect of loss being suffered by one factories or the Government undertakings and the action taken, if any, in this regard against those found guilty should be brought to the notice of the House.

In the end, I only want to submit that a S.S.P. factory should be set up as soon as possible either in the Public Sector or in the Private Sector or in the Joint Sector in our Sagar district where rock phosphate is available in abundance.

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasumand) :** You belong to district Damoh but you are speaking for Sagar district.

**SHRI DALCHANDER JAIN :** I am grateful to my respect elder brother Shuklaji that he has drawn my attention to it. I was going to make a reference in respect of Damoh and Panna District. Lime stone is available in abundance in district Damoh and therefore, a cement industry should be set up there. Similarly, diamond mines in district Panna have been closed for some reason. It has been said in this House many a time that work is undertaken by the Government with the sole objective of providing jobs and the profit and loss aspect is not kept in view. Therefore, I would like to request the Panna mines be reopened. Similarly, stone quarries have also been closed down for the last few years on the ground that they fall within the forest area, whereas there is no question of ony forest being there. Therefore, these quarries should also be reopened soon so that the unemployed workers could get work. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

**SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak today in the debate on fertilizers. When our country attained independence, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was farsighted and set up heavy industries. Earlier almost all goods used to be imported. Today, Pandit Nehru's far sightedness is bearing fruits. Besides, Bhakra Dam was built on account of his inspiration. It facilitated irrigation of more areas leading to increase in production. There are about 38 big fertilizer units in the country whereas the number of small units is about 40. We cannot meet our fertilizer requirements with these factories. Wherever irrigation facilities exist, fertilizers would be needed. Earlier, foodgrains used to be imported as we did not have enough irrigation facilities and fertilizer production. I would like to say that with better irrigation facilities and availability of quality fertilizers the crops have been so good that. We have been able to meet the food requirements of the entire country because of increased production. Now, we are in a position to export foodgrains. The scarcity of fertilizers is persisting because the farmers have started using more and more fertilizers. Fertilizers are being used everywhere at the instance of the Government which has resulted in increased production. It is a matter of regret that the prices of fertilizers are very high. Factories are located at distant places. The high transportation cost by rail or by

trucks further escalates the prices. I would like these factories to be set up at a distance of every five or eight kilometers so that the farmers may not have to go to a distant place and they may get fertilizers at cheap rates. Some hon. Members of Parliament have criticised that Government have allowed a very small hike in the price of wheat. We want that the prices of fertilizers should be brought down. We have been told that Government are giving a subsidy of Rs. 1200 crores. This subsidy is very meagre for a country of India's size. This should be further raised. The increase in subsidy will lead to increase in production. If you set up factories at a distance of every five to eight kilometers it will help in providing employment to the unemployed under the 20-point Programme, the fertilizer will become cheap and production will also go up.

The wheat crop raised by using compost or other manures is more nutritious than the wheat raised by using ammonium sulphate. Our scientists know what is to be mixed in it to increase production. The use of manure or '*sani manure*' raises production and the grain of wheat so raised is also quite solid. Delhi Administration have given wide publicity in our villages to the salt. That the *moong* crop given there by a fairly good yield. *Moong*, *urad* and *guwar* have more nutrition. If we do not raise such crops, the prices of Ammonium Sulphate will rise further. Today, the use of fertilizers has increased as the farmers want to get a higher yield.

I would also like to say that some such chemicals should be mixed in the four types of fertilizers like DAP, NPK, Urea and Potash etc. which could enrich wheat and other crops with more vitamins and make them more solid just as coned manure makes wheat more solid. Many experiments are being carried out in this direction these days. I would like to say that more such experiments should be carried out so that production could increase as also wheat and other crops could be more nutritious and enriched with vitamins. Such methods should be discovered by government and publicised among the farmers living in the villages through video and other publicity means. If the farmers are apprised of such new methods, our produce is bound to increase.

I would also like to say that the

Government adopted a lot of measures to check crop diseases and pesticide and weedicides and other chemicals are sprinkled in the fields before sowing so that termites, other pests and insects or weeds could not damage the crop in any way. Many such chemicals are being supplied by government which protect crops from harmful effects. There is also a chemical which controls 'Ratna' in agricultural land. But it has been my experience that a lot of medicines are available in the market, but these medicines are so costly that an ordinary farmer is unable to purchase them. I would, therefore, request that fifty per cent subsidy should be provided to the farmers on medicines so that every farmer could use them in his field and the crops could be protected from the menace of pests and insects.

As I have said earlier also, if the fertilizer factory or shop is situated near the field of a farmer, he can bring fertilizers on his bullock cart, tractor or even on his cycle, but if fertilizer has to be brought from outside, and as you have said it would be supplied from Gujarat, it would definitely be costly. We want that maximum subsidy should be provided to the farmers on fertilizers.

Eighty per cent of our people live in the villages and are engaged in agriculture or other vocations connected with it. If cheap fertilizers are made available to them, it would not only increase agricultural production, but their standard of living would also be raised. I would, therefore, request that fertilizers should be made available to them at a fair price, whether subsidy be provided to them for this purpose or any other arrangement be made. You should set up small fertilizer factories. This would not only provide cheap fertilizers to the farmers, but would provide jobs to the labourers also.

Similarly, there are many societies or Panchayats in our villages, which should be given licences by the government so that factories could be established there at the earliest and people could get employment. I would not take much of your time. I would request the hon. Minister to take action on the points which I have mentioned. It is essential that farmers are provided with cheap fertilizers so that agricultural production could increase. Government should take steps in this direction. Effects should be made to ensure that the crops are nutritious,

enriched with vitamins and free of any ill effects. Experiments should be carried out in this direction and new chemicals should be discovered. With their use agricultural production would increase and the produce would be nutrition and enriched with vitamins. A good crop is obtained by using Ammonium Sulphate and Phosphate in the fields. More such chemicals should be invented.

At present a subsidy of Rs. 12 crores is given on fertilisers. If the amount of this subsidy is increased to Rs. 24 crores, the farmers would be able to get cheaper fertilisers and would use them in their fields.

I would also like to mention that Banks were nationalised by our late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, and farmers installed tube-wells after taking loans from the Banks. Previously, they were not able to get loans from the Banks. After nationalisation of Banks, agricultural production increased immediately. The Government should ensure that agricultural production is increased and nutrition yield is obtained. New chemicals should be invented for this purpose. The result of these efforts would be that we will be healthy and strong. The fertilisers could be available at cheaper rates only when they are produced indigenously. In this way we have been able to increase the production of wheat. People would not get employment in big factories, but small factories would generate the employment potential and cheap fertilisers would also be available. I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY (Bettiah) :  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.

Modern age, as a matter of fact, is an age of fertilisers. By using fertilisers, our productivity has increased nearly by two and a half times during the last one decade and on account of that we have become self-sufficient in the production of foodgrains.

At present, there are nearly 38 fertiliser units and 40 small units which supply fertilisers to the farmers. The distribution system of fertilisers functions at the block level from where fertilisers are supplied to the farmers from time to time. There are no two opinions about it that our production of fertilisers has increased to a considerable

extent. But the report which has been supplied to us says that at the end of this Five Year Plan, our production would fall short of our requirements of fertilisers. We would have to see to it that our fertiliser production is able to meet the requirements of the farmers.

The foremost-requirements of the farmer is that of nitrogen phosphate and this is the fertiliser whose production has been the maximum. The production of phosphate has increased, but it should be increased further. The phosphatic fertilizer is either sprinkled or mixed in the soil. This fertiliser is used in the organic form and the production of organic phosphate is short of our requirements. Fertilisers are produced by us as single Super or Triple Super varieties, but mostly there is a shortage of organic phosphates.

Inorganic Phosphorus and Phosphate are found in the soil itself. It is in black form which is called black phosphate. This black phosphate when mixed with organic phosphate is released in the inorganic form and provides nutrition to the plants. Thus the need for organic phosphate is the greatest today and generally we mix fertilisers in the soil in the organic form. It does not benefit us, because phosphate in the inorganic form is already there in the soil and it is useful to plants only when it is released in organic form. It is a technical subject. The production of organic phosphate is necessary so that inorganic phosphate could be released. The production of organic phosphate should, therefore, be given greater attention.

Secondly, most of our fertiliser plants are outdated. As an illustration, I would like to draw your attention towards Sindri Plant. I came from Bihar where the Sindri Fertiliser Plant is situated. In this plant, fertilisers are produced with the old process. At present the work in progress there to produce Single Super Phosphate. This factory is already producing hydrochloric acid and  $H_2SO_4$  which is called sulphuric acid. Sulphuric acid is produced with the help of Pyrites and there are a number of pyrite mines in the districts of Chhota Nagpur and Palamau. With the help of pyrites, sulphuric acid is produced. This acid is used in the production of fertilisers also. Sulphuric acid is also required in Steel Plants and other industries. This is the minimum requirement towards which I want to draw your attention.

Then, there is the Barauni Fertilizer Plant in Bihar which is not producing as per its capacity, as has been mentioned in the Report. Reasons for less production have also been given in the Report the first reason is the power shortage and the other is the shortage of alcohol. The production has been less mainly due to power shortage.

It is correct that there has been power shortage since 1977 till today. Power shortage might end by the end of this year. A thermal power plant has been installed, which would supply power, but the power shortage in Barauni, which has been the cause of less production, is to be remedied. For this purpose, a captive power plant should be installed in Barauni and work on the captive power plant should be started and completed at the earliest, because the loss of production cannot be tolerated for long.

Sir, we always talk about fertilisers, but in addition to fertilisers, there are certain other factors which contribute toward the growth of plants. The greatest need is to strengthen the plant so that fruit could also be nutritious.

We have not been able to increase sufficiently the production of plant hormones. We are still at an experimental stage. We started with the application of hormones in the soil, which has proved useful. It should not be restricted to experimental stage only, and hormones should be utilised by the farmers to maximum extent so that other farmers could also be benefited. The production of hormones should be increased to the maximum possible extent so that we could exchange it with the farmers living in foreign countries, who are far ahead of us in the matter of production. If other such hormones are invented and are made available to the farmers at subsidised rates, it would be beneficial to them.

As the member who spoke before me said, despite a subsidy of Rs. 1200 crores, the prices of urea, ammonium sulphate or phosphate are higher. A bag of urea is being sold for Rs. 114 to Rs. 120 in the market.

15.00 hrs.

There is another thing which I want to point out. During the last elections, the

price of a bag of urea in our area was about Rs. 200. The farmers could not get urea for use in spite of the fact that it was available there. I agree that distribution is the concern of the State Governments. There are agencies of the State Governments engaged in their distribution. But the Central Government should have an agency of their own which could ensure timely supply of urea to the farmers at a reasonable price. We have done so much publicity for chemical fertilizers, but if they are not available in time, our publicity would be of no use.

Moreover, we should pay attention to the fertilizer plants in the private sector and the services of the private sector can be utilised to bridge the gap between the production and the requirement by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. This gap can be bridged by using the improved technology in the private sector.

Now, I would like to pay a few words about I. D. P. L. We have an I. D. P. L. factory at Muzaffarpur in Bihar. The production of medicines in the Muzaffarpur factory is also below its capacity. The reason given for this in this Report is the shortage of alcohol and power. I have a suggestion with regard to the shortage of alcohol. There are a number of sugar mills at and to the north of Muzaffarpur. The sugar mills are there at Bettiah also to which I belong, and in the area of Champaran which had been the centre of activities of Mahatma Gandhi. There are nine sugar mills in this area including Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Vaishali and Sitamarhi. In spite of all these sugar mills, you say that there is shortage of alcohol. My suggestion is that in consultation with the State Government, we should convert the molasses, which is a residue in the process of the production of sugar in these mills, into alcohol and supply it to I. D. P. L. factory. This is not a big thing. But, initiative in this regard should come from the Government of India so that the production in I. D. P. L. factory at Muzaffarpur does not suffer. This factory should produce to its full capacity and when production will be more, our brothers will, in fact, be able to get medicines at cheap rates.

Another thing I would like to say is about starch, glucose and dextrose solution

which are used in treatment of cases of diarrhoea, vomiting and dehydration. These medicines are used in the treatment of a variety of kidney problems. If Government sell these medicines after subsidising their prices, it can benefit the people to a great extent. You come across many types of patients in the hospitals and many of them do not have money to buy medicines. Therefore, it is necessary to raise the production of items such as glucose and dextrose and to make them available to the patients at subsidised rates. These are very much needed for ailments like dehydration. Today one set of medicines Rs. 12 to 13, which no poor man can afford. Therefore, there is dire need to raise its production and reduce its price. Punjab Maize Products Limited has started this work and a small unit also exists in Patna Medical College Hospital in Bihar, but these are not being produced there on a large scale. What I mean to say is that if arrangements could be made in the hospitals and normal saline, glucose and dextrose etc. I produced there, it will have very good results.

Besides, as you know, three diseases—tuberculosis, leprosy and filaria have a high rate of prevalence in India. You also spend a lot of money on the treatment of these diseases. The incidence of tuberculosis and leprosy is very high in Eastern and Western U.P. and the prices of the medicines being used for their treatment are also very high. Three medicines are used in the first of defence against tuberculosis—the first is I.N.H., the second is PAS (Para amino-Salicylic acid) and the third is streptomycin. These are the basic drugs which are given to a patient of tuberculosis at the initial stage. Of these, streptomycin is given for the first three months and the other two are given continuously for 18 months. If the cost of these medicines, which are supposed to be taken for 18 months, is worked out at current prices, it will come to Rs. 1200 per patient, whereas these are only basic drugs. Apart from these, some new drugs have also come, such as rifampicin, thycetazone and ethambutol, etc. Not all patients of tuberculosis use rifampicin, because one capsule of it costs Rs. 3.50 and it has to be taken regularly for 18 months. Therefore, the prices of these drugs need to be drastically reduced. A small reduction will not make much difference, because these medicines have to be taken for a long time. Therefore,

I request that the prices of the medicines used in anti-tuberculosis treatment, which are being produced in the country and are not being imported, should be substantially reduced. These diseases are carried mostly by the poor whose social status is low. These diseases mostly affect those whose purchasing capacity is low. They cannot even take the medicine for 18 months. That is why I am making this submission to the hon. Minister.

The second submission I want to make is about leprosy. The price of the medicine called D.D.S. which is used for the treatment of leprosy is very high and it also needs to be reduced. I also want to say something about serum and vaccine. I agree that their production has increased, but no vaccine or serum has been developed for common diseases. Vaccines for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus have been in use for long, but no anti-viral vaccine has yet been developed. Their production has not increased that much. Therefore, I want to say that attention should be paid to the development of vaccine and serum.

In the end, I want to say that today the chemical industry has progressed well as compared to the past and it has played a vital role in our national life. With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of this Ministry.

[English]

SHRI R. P. DAS (Krishnagar) : Madam Chairman, it has already been said that our *per capita* fertiliser consumption is far less than that in the developed countries. Even it is less than what China consumes. This shows the dismal situation in regard to fertiliser production in this country.

Madam, this Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizer claims in its annual report for 1984-85 that it has been able to maintain good progress in respect of fertiliser production and chemical production. To envisage this position, the report says that in the case of nitrogenous fertiliser production, they have surpassed the target in that year. It was able to produce to the tune of 3.7 million tonnes of nitrogenous fertiliser. Madam, the production of fertiliser or nitrogenous fertiliser for this year is to be seen in the light of total production of fertiliser for the year 1983-84 and 1984-85.

In 1983-84, the total domestic production was 4.53 million tonnes. The production for 1984-85 is near about 5.88 million tonnes. But in that year the total off-take was to the tune of 7.72 million tonnes and the target fixed for the year was 8.4 million tonnes. If we compare it with the nitrogenous fertiliser production which actually was to the tune of 3.7 million tonnes, I should say that the target set was very low. I do not know why the nitrogenous fertiliser production target was fixed so low. No doubt, that low target was achieved; there was a surplus also and this year it may cross even 4 million tonnes. But if we judge the entire matter in the light of total requirement of fertiliser in the country, then we will find that a very low target was set and it was only to make the people believe that this Ministry has been working in a good manner and that it has done a good job.

I should say that this ministry in regard to the production of fertiliser has not been able to register any bright performance. We have been told that this year the Ministry had to import a larger quantity of fertiliser to meet the demand in the country. If this be the position in regard to the production of fertiliser, there is very little chance that this Ministry will be able to cope up with the demand of fertiliser in the country. The supply is always less than the demand. Therefore, this Ministry has to import fertiliser in a large quantity every year. This year, it proposes to import a larger quantity to meet the demand of fertiliser in the country. It has to import a very large quantity of fertiliser from other countries.

Now, if this is seen from a different angle, we will find that the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers is not in a position to meet the demand of fertilisers in the near future. The hon. Minister may say that six plants are under construction and that these six plants may be commissioned in a short time. But no time-frame has been mentioned in the Annual Report of the Ministry. Therefore, nobody knows when these six plants will be commissioned. When these six plants are commissioned, these will produce another 2 million tonnes of fertiliser. If one adds 2 million tonnes to 5 million tonnes that the country has been producing now, it will come to about 7 million tonnes of fertiliser

in the near or distant future. This shows the real position of the Ministry in regard to the production of fertiliser.

In this connection, I would like to point out how the managements of certain fertiliser plants under construction are working in the last few years. If you take the case of Haldia Fertilisers, you will find that this Haldia Fertilisers, was mechanically completed as far back as 1979 but it could not go into commercial production as yet. It is due to the inability of the management of the Haldia Fertiliser. They shifted their responsibility by saying that West Bengal Government were not able to supply power to them and that is why they were not able to commission the plant. But Government of India approved the gas turbine in December, 1981 of 20 MW and this gas turbine was installed in 1981 and it started giving power to the plant from April, 1982. Afterwards, Haldia Fertiliser was commissioned and with the commissioned of the plant, some defects were noticed in oxygen and nitrogen compressors. These defects coupled with some other problems in control valve and synthesis gas compressor which actually put this Haldia fertiliser in a tight position and it postponed its commissioning till May, 1983. After rectification of some of the defects and repair of the equipments, the plant started its production in may, 1983. But the plant could not stabilise because of the defects of some equipments and it was found that there was a major break down in the oxygen gas holder. Actually it blasted at that time and oxygen compressors were not working properly. It happened in September, 1983. That is why the entire commissioning was postponed to a later date. Nobody knows when it will be commissioned. The management says that it will be commissioned in the September or October, 1985. Actually, the entire matter of Haldia Fertilisers rates on the management of Haldia. This management was working in such a manner that it could not commission the plant on time. Therefore, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister as to how the managements in different public sector undertakings are responsible formal-functioning of the projects. This further causes escalation of cost of the plants.

In regard to chemical industry also, the annual report says that it has been able to register good progress in the year preceding.

But the progress was not up to the mark. Actually, the Annual report of the Ministry claims progress in different fields of chemical industry as if it was attaining the much-professed self-sufficiency of the Government of India. But it could not in fact reach anywhere near self-sufficiency. Therefore, there is no room for self-complacency. But if one goes through the annual report of the Ministry, one's impression will be that the Ministry is more or less self-complacent about their progress in different fields.

In the chemical industry we find that phenol, industrial alcohol and soda ash are always in short supply. Sometimes the position becomes so acute that soda ash sells at a very high price in the market. Short supply in respect of some of these chemicals can be seen almost all the time during the year.

I will point out another item, namely, industrial alcohol, which is a scarce commodity in West Bengal. Industrial alcohol is an important item for chemical and other small scale industries. It is not produced in West Bengal in good quantities. It is produced in other States like Bihar, U.P. and Maharashtra. West Bengal has to get it from them. But it is not easy for West Bengal to procure this industrial alcohol as much as it required. The All India Molasses Board controls the distribution of industrial alcohol to the States. But West Bengal is suffering acutely for want of industrial alcohol. The hon. Minister must look into the matter and see that industrial alcohol is made available to West Bengal.

I would like to raise another matter, and that is about Haldia Petro-Chemical Complex. The Minister knows very well that the West Bengal Government had a proposal under which the Government of India could participate directly in implementing the project. The proposal said that the Government of India's share in equity participation should be 40 per cent as against the State's share of 40 per cent and the financial institutions' share of 20 per cent. That was to be a joint venture. But all of us know that this proposal of the West Bengal Government has been dropped by the Central Government on the ground that no

funds have been allocated for Haldia Petro-Chemical Complex in the Sixth Five Year Plan. On the other hand, a petro-chemical complex costing Rs. 1200 crores is being set up in Maharashtra. We have no objection to that. We only want to emphasize the point that, according to the Government of India themselves, Haldia Petro-Chemical Complex is a worth-pursuing project. Therefore, I would again make out a case before this House that a petro-chemical should be given to West Bengal and it should be included in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The Government of India can bear the entire cost if they do not want to have it as a joint venture. In any case, it should be included in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

15.29 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

The setting up of Haldia Petro-Chemical Complex would rejuvenate the existing sagging chemical industries of West Bengal, including the nationalised ones and it will also open up opportunities for creation of a large number of chemical industries—large, medium and small. As a matter of fact, the basic petro-chemicals will lead to a chain of conversion industries thereby ensuring all-round economic development of the State...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Member will continue on the next occasion. We have to take up the Private Members' business.

We will now take up private Members' business. Now, Bills for introduction.

Shri B. V. Desai

15.30 hrs.

#### BAN ON RELIGIOUS CONVERSIONS BILL\*

[English]

SHRI B.V. DESAI (Raichur) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to ban religious conversions in India.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : On a point of order, Sir. I feel that the Bill now before the House is violative of Art 25 of the Constitution which gives the citizen the right freely to profess practise and