

Sale) Control Order on 1st September, 1971 with the objective of providing tractors to the farmers at reasonable rate, but the same was terminated on 29th January, 1988. The outcome of the termination was that the dealers' approach became arbitrary. When a farmer approaches the dealers for booking tractor, he is asked to make full payment in advance and he is not given any interest on his money till he gets the delivery of the tractor.

The farmers have to pay more interest and they have to mortgage their valuable land to get loans from the nationalised banks. For purchasing tractors they have to deposit money in advance and ironically interest is not given on this money and despite all this, they do not get the delivery of their tractors on their turn.

Through you, I urge the hon. Minister of Industries to review and reinforce the Tractor Control Order to provide justice to the poor farmers.

(iv) Need to expedite revamping of public sector fertiliser plant at Durgapur under Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation Ltd.

[English]

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK (Durgapur): The public sector fertiliser plant at Durgapur under Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited was commissioned 18 years back during 1972-73. The technical know-how of this plant was obtained from Montecatine of Italy and detailed engineering was done indigenously for the first time in the country. The design itself was not proven as Montecatine had designed such plants for the first time, because of which the design, engineering and supplies had many deficiencies. With those inherent deficiencies the plant had faced trouble since inception and it would neither achieve desired production nor it could be run on a sustained basis. The problem of failure

of equipments were mainly due to continuous and mounting neglect by management of the plant. The Government of India appointed M/s. Haldor Topsoe of Denmark during 1987 and in 1988 made suitable recommendation for its rehabilitation through revamping. But no decisions have yet been taken by the Government till date.

Sir, in view of the above, I would like to draw the attention of the concerned Ministry so that a positive investment decision is immediately taken without any further delay.

(v) Need to divert gas from Bombay High to southern states especially Tamil Nadu to be utilised in the field of Power and Industry

DR. (SHRIMATI) K. S. SOUNDARAM (Tiruchengode): The production potential of gas in the Bombay High is around 61 million cubic meters per day (MCMPD). The maximum rated carrying capacity of Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur (HBJ) pipeline to the north from Bombay High is only 39.5 MCMPD.

The surplus gas of 21.6 MCMPD could be brought to southern States, especially, Tamil Nadu, through a pipeline for utilisation in the area of power and industry.

The State Government had suggested to the Government of India to constitute an Inter Ministerial Committee, in April, 1990. The report of the Committee and the decision of the Centre thereon are awaited.

If the surplus gas from Bombay High is made available early, Tamil Nadu Government can plan for setting up of new power generating stations and gas-based chemical complexes. I request the Government to take steps to speed up this project at the earliest.