

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: The suggestion of the hon. Member is worth consideration.

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that there are not telephone facilities available in the post offices and sub-post offices in the rural areas particularly in the State of Bihar. There is no means of communication available for the poor villagers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to provide telephone facilities in all such post and sub post offices where there is no provision of telephone.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated that the Government, during the Eighth Five Year Plan, intends to connect every village with telephone and in this context preference will be given to the provision of telephone facilities only in the post offices.

SHRI TASLIMUDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a telephone exchange had been sanctioned five years back for Khagaria district headquarters in Bihar but this could not be installed till now for want of a building to house the exchange. I would like to know from the Government whether it proposes to install and Commission the exchange in a rented accommodation?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the moment we don't have the required information about the Khagaria exchange. The same will be supplied in due course to the hon. Member.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER:

Shri Vasant Sathe : Absent
 Shri H. C. Srikantaiah : Absent
 Shri G. S. Basavaraj : Absent
 Shri Shantaram Potdukhe : Absent

Shri Y.S. Raja Sekhar Reddy : Absent

Shri Ram Sagar : Absent

Shri G.M. Banatwalla : Absent

Shri Madhvrao Scindia : Absent

Shri Eduardo Faleiro : Absent

Shri Kalp Nath Rai : Absent

Shri S. Krishna Kumar : Absent

Prof. P. J. Kurien : Absent

Dr. Asim Bala

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the telephone problem is a major problem. I would, therefore, like to request you to devote the remaining time to this issue alone.
 (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have come to know that Dr. Asim Bala is here in the House.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Asim Bala.

Revamping of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation

774. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are contemplating to revamp the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation;

(b) if so, the total funds sanctioned for the purpose, and

(c) the target of production of Nitro-phosphates per day by the corporation during 1990-91?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) to (c). Government are contemplating revamping of Durgapur, Barauni, Namrup-I & II and a nitro-phosphate group of plants at Haldia of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited. The proposals are under examination. The question of sanctioning funds and fixing targets will arise only after any investment decision is taken.

[*English*]

DR. ASIM BALA: Sir, in 1977 the proposal was approved with an estimated cost of Rs. 88 crores. It was supposed to be completed in April 1976. . But it was completed in December 1979. Till now the production could not be started in full swing. May I know the loss incurred due to the long delay in implementation of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, Haldia project? Also I want to know the exact date of the decision of revamping will be held.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Sir, so far as the Haldia project is concerned, it has been closed for the last three years and every month, an expenditure of Rs. one and a half crore is being incurred on the monthly salary of more than 1800 employees. To this day there is no possibility of starting this project at an earlier stage.

[*English*]

DR. ASIM BALA: Some assessment has been going on regularly for the last five to six years. Money is being incurred without any result. I want the hon. Minister to fix some date for putting it on sound footing;

otherwise, close this fertiliser factory.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: No date can be fixed for it. It is still under consideration.

[*English*]

SHRI A. K. ROY: The Department of Fertiliser has 11 children. And out of 11 children, this year 10 have fallen sick and have been occurring losses except RCCF. Among all the children, HFC is perennially it. This year, HFC has incurred a loss of about Rs. 140 crores. Last year, it incurred a loss of Rs. 158 crores, while the total cost of revamping of all the four units have been estimated at Rs. 350 crores. I am unable to understand the economics in the fertiliser industry. If by investing Rs. 350 crores in four units you can get rid of this chronic loss, and you have already incurred this much of amount as loss within two years, what is the cause for the delay in proceeding for revamping all the four units?

[*Translation*]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Sir, as I have stated earlier, Haldia factory is not the only factory which is incurring losses but all the factories under the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC) are incurring losses and are on the brink of closure. We have been trying to revive at least some of them. By the end of 1990, we want to increase their production.

[*English*]

SHRI A. K. ROY: What I wanted to impress upon the Minister is that HFC has been incurring a loss of Rs. 150 crores per year and the total revamping cost of all the four units is Rs. 350 crores. I would like to know when he will take action in that direction to start revamping so that the chronic loss is avoided. Have you got any time schedule?

[*Translation*]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: In order to revive them, an amount of Rs. 600 crore is required immediately. However, we are studying as to how much can be made available by 1991.

SHRI L. V. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know through you that the installed capacity of Barauni factory of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation is 152 M.T., which came down to 65.5 M.T.S. and it is likely to further reduce to 36.00 M.T. during 1989-90. What is the reason for it? I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would consider increasing the production of Barauni factory.

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: I agree to the statement of the hon. Member that the production of the said factory has fallen. In order to bring it back to its original capacity or to further augment it, a lot of money is required. The Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation is studying it.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know through you as to why all the fertilizer factories running under H.F.C. are incurring losses and whether the Government have made any attempt to inquire into it.

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes we have done so. There are many causes, at places workers go on strike, at others lack of raw materials is the cause as is the case with Haldia. I have informed you about Haldia factory where for the last three years Rs. 1.5 crores are being spent every month as 1800 workers are to be paid whereas production is "Nil". The Government does not have sufficient resources to invest into it immediately.

[*English*]

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whenever there is a loss of production or some other thing due to which the machine or factory cannot run, the workers come handy and they are attacked.

There was a Committee appointed and that Committee has submitted a Report. The Committee has identified various faults in these four plants. One of the faults is wrong delivery of machines and another is corruption and also bad quality of production, for which the workers have nothing to do. so, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister to kindly see what are the recommendations of the Committee whether the recommendations have been gone into; and whether a time frame has been made to revamp and start all these four plants, atleast phase-wise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, four units cannot be started at a time but we are thinking to start them in a phased manner, Information is being collected to start them in a phased manner.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Minister is saying that the Haldia Fertilizer Unit is running at a loss. But, why is it running at a loss? What is your Assessment? Now, is it correct that because of the defects in the installation itself, it has not been able to run properly? There have been several Committees, which have gone into including the Japanese and they have made a study and they have given their reports. How are you going to remove the defects and have it properly started? I do not know what is meant by this emphasis that the workers are getting salary without any procedure have been, from the beginning, defects in the setting up of the plant and whether they have been gone into. What is the result of the Committees findings and what does the Government propose to do in this regard? I want to know from the Government their concrete proposals for this particular unit?

[*Translation*]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is correct that there has been some effect at the time of installation but it is

also equally correct that losses are being incurred due to corruption. As you have stated, it is true that quality of production that was anticipated is not being done. However, despite all this the government is not in a position to bear so much burden at this stage. We are giving a thought to it as to how to go about it in a phased manner.

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA:

Sir, it has been said that the estimated total cost for the revamping would be Rs. 500 crores, which is stated to be unviable. Now, the question is whether there is any proposal for closing down of any of these units. I would also like to point out that there was a later proposal that, as a first step of phase-one, rehabilitation of the Nitro Phosphate Group would be made, which would require an estimated cost of Rs. 123 crores, which has since gone upto Rs. 157 crores. Are you thinking of closing these units? Or are you thinking to take into consideration revamping these units in a phased manner?

[Translation]

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have stated earlier we are in the process of obtaining information in this regard. Haldia factory cannot be put into operation for technical reasons. Report from Japan has been received. According to this report, an amount of Rs. 500 crores is required for the machinery. As for closing it down, there is no proposal to close it. We are getting detailed information in this regard.

[English]

Holding of Meetings of 'India Cells'

776. **DR. VENKATESH KABDE:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'India Cells' established under the spics of Indian embassies abroad are holding regular meetings of Indians and non-Indians to explain India's stand on dif-

ferent national and international issues;

(b) if so, the number of such meetings held during the year 1989-90; and

(c) the results of the evaluation made of such programmes to promote mutual understanding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) to (c). India's stand on different national and international issues is explained regularly by our Missions to both Indians and non-Indians abroad. While all Officers in our Missions are required to undertake this, the Head of Mission and the Officer-in-charge of Information work have been assigned a special responsibility to draw up programmes for this purpose and evaluate these. Although separate Cells have not been established, our evaluation shows that the results have been generally satisfactory.

DR. VENKATESH KABDE: Sir, generally the perception of India's problems in the international fora and the community is poor. This view has been expressed by Indians living abroad that many of our problems are not understood by the foreigners and, as a result, lot of misunderstandings arise. Particularly in United States, I think an assessment was made by the State Department that there was violation of human rights in Kashmir a statement which was quite undesirable for all- and because of that, an explanation had to be given. Therefore, my question to the Minister is what specific efforts we are making in the United States. We have a society like the Indo-American Society which undertakes programmes with our nationals over there and also with the citizens of the United States of America, to explain our stand to different people. I would like to know if such programmes are held, how many such programmes were held last year in United States and what is the method of evaluation.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) Sir, I agree with