

**Fertilizer plants at Talchar and Ramagundum**

\*131. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizer Corporation of India has taken a lead in commissioning of the coal-based projects with argon recovery plants at Talchar and Ramagundum;

(b) what is the present requirement of argon gas in the country at present and what is the estimated excess capacity for the gas; and

(c) how the excess gas is proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The argon recovery plant at the Ramagundum Fertilizer Plant started production from February 1981. The argon -- recovery plant at Talcher is ready to start production.

(b) the present requirement of argon gas in the country is estimated to be about 8 lakh cubic metres per annum. The demand is expected to grow to about 16 lakh cubic metres per annum by 1983-84. The total installed capacity in the country for production of argon gas was about 8.8 lakh cubic metres per annum in 1980. This has now gone upto about 57 lakh cubic metres per annum.

(c) In view of the surplus capacity available, further avenues for use of argon gas within the country as well as for export to other countries are being explored.

**Power projects of U.P. sanctioned and awaiting sanction**

\*133. SHRI TRILOK CHAND: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects submitted by the U.P. Government for Centre's approval to meet the increasing demand in the State;

(b) the number of power projects that have sanctioned by Government stating the financial implications involved and the extent of the Central Assistance proposed to be given for the implementation of the projects; and

(c) the reasons for not sanctioning the remaining power projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) Feasibility reports for 15 generation projects in Uttar Pradesh have been with Government of India since the commencement of the Sixth Plan.

(b) Out of these 15 projects, 5 projects have already been accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority. 2 of these projects have also been accorded investment approval.

In the Sixth Plan of Uttar Pradesh, there is a provision of Rs. 1251 crores for on-going and new power generation projects. Central assistance to States is given for the Plan outlays as a whole and not separately for different sectors or projects.

(c) The present status of the remaining 10 schemes may be seen in the statement annexed.