

discovered more oil; partially we have kept it underground and partially we have to prepare ourselves to produce it. The major question is to arrange for the transportation of the oil to Bongaigaon refinery when it is ready to receive it. About 5.5 million tonnes of crude will be taken care of by these refineries. The Digboi refinery perhaps will not process .5 million tonnes; it will be able to process more than .3 million. Noonmati might go up to .9 million though it may not be able to touch 1 million. Bongaigaon refinery will gradually take 1 million. We have got the oil in sight. Transportation arrangements are being made. The whole programme of linking up the transport, production of crude and commissioning of Bongaigaon refinery is being worked out. It is hoped that by the time Bongaigaon refinery is ready we shall be able to produce 5 or 6 million tonnes or perhaps even a little more crude which will be taken care of.

Production of Madras Fertilizers Ltd.

*218. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madras Fertilizers Limited is maintaining steady progress in production; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While the production of the company for the entire year 1974-75 was only 83,000 tonnes of nitrogen and 48,000 tonnes of P205, production during the period April, 1975 to February, 1976 was 133,000 tonnes of nitrogen and 55,000 tonnes of P205.

SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM: What is the installed capacity of these two plants? Whether the factory

would reach the full production level? If not, what is the reason?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): The production in the factory is gradually going up. In 1971-72 the percentage utilisation of nitrogen was 51.52 per cent. In 1975-76 it has gone up to 88.4 per cent. In the case of P205, the percentage utilisation was 28.2 per cent, now it has gone up to 64.7 per cent.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: In response to another question on the floor of this House, the production in this country as well as imports have been discussed. We are having heavy stocks of nitrogen as well as P205 at the terminal points as well as in the inventories of the respective production units but we are still importing 2 million tonnes or 1.5 million tonnes of fertilisers from abroad as end product. Why is it that we are not able to utilise our capacity for higher production rather than go in for importation of these fertilisers at exorbitant prices from foreign markets?

MR. SPEAKER: It is too large a question. It is not allowed. Next Question. No member is present. The Question List is over. Now, we shall go to the next item.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Agreement with Iraq for Import of Crude

*201. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with Iraq for import of additional crude;

(b) if so, its broad features; and

(c) the total quantity that will be imported yearly from this source under this agreement?