

140,000 tonnes of nitrogen has commenced production with effect from 20th March, 1976. Significant contribution towards production from this unit will become available during the next financial year.

(b) The exact position in regard to the additional production likely to be available from these plants would be known only after they are commissioned and operations get stabilised.

R.B.I. Study about Railway Finances

*316. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has suggested steps for putting Railway finances in sound position; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Remittances by Foreign Drug Firms

*317. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a speech delivered in Lucknow on 17th February, 1976 by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, containing a strong plea for stopping the drain on the country's scarce resources by giant multinationals in the drug and pharmaceutical industry;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) total remittances by foreign-controlled drug firms operating in India, year-wise, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The activities of the foreign companies in India are regulated under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and also the guidelines issued to administer Section 29 of the said Act.

(c) Details of remittances made by the foreign drug firm during 1971/1971-72 and 1972/1972-73 are contained in Annexure V to Chapter V of the Report of Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on 8th May, 1975.

Figure of Remittances made by foreign drug firms during the year 1974/1974-75 are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of Project Consultancy in Fertilizers and Chemicals

*319. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizer Corporation of India has developed project consultancy capacity in fertilizers and chemicals; and

(b) whether F.C.I. is trying to sell this consultancy in markets in West Asia and South-East Asia?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). The Corporation has developed the necessary expertise in regard to the offer of technical consultancy services in the field of fertilizers and allied chemicals. The Corporation has already conducted techno-economic feasibility and other studies in connection with the setting of fertilizer plants in some of the Gulf countries. Bangladesh and in the Philippines and is in a position to take up similar jobs elsewhere.