

Proposal to declare 200 Nautical Miles of Coastal Marine Waters of Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea as Economic Zone.

*116. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare 200 nautical miles of the coastal marine waters of Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea as economic zone laying claim to all fishing and mineral rights within it; and

(b) if so, steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On May 27, 1976, Parliament amended article 297 of the Constitution vesting lands, minerals and other things of value underlying the territorial waters, the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone in the Union by the 40th amendment.

Powers have been taken under this amendment to specify the limits of territorial waters, continental shelf and the exclusive zone by a parliamentary law. The Bill for this purpose was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 28-5-1976 and passed by it on 10-8-1976. Lok Sabha has yet to pass it. By clause 7 of this the limit of the exclusive economic zone is 200 nautical miles measured from the appropriate base line and is beyond and adjacent to the territorial waters of India.

Fertiliser Units producing at full Capacity

*119. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the names of the fertilizer units

which are producing fertilisers to their full capacity and those which are not?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): Production and capacity utilisation of nitrogen and phosphatic units during the year 1975-76 and during the period April-July 1976 of the current year are given in statement I and statement II laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11128/76].

Savings due to cut in import of Components and Spare Parts

*120. SHRI JAGANNATH MIS-HRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have effected substantial cut in the import of components and spare parts; and

(b) if so, the total saving on this account during 1975-76?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A large number of items which had hitherto been imported have been taken out from the import list thus effecting a saving of foreign exchange to the tune of Rs 5 crores (approximately) during 1975-76. The net effect of this measure will, however, be known in two year's time.

Suburban Railway facilities between Burdwan and Asansol and between Durgapur-Baniganj and Asansol

842 SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the long standing demand of the local passengers, merchants and public to introduce all