

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : These are all very important.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : As far as patents are concerned, I want notice. As far as nationalisation of drug industry is concerned, there is no such proposal under consideration.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : May I know whether 35 foreign units to which reference was made by hon. Minister account for the bulk of the manufacture of antibiotics which are marketed in this country? If that is so, I want to know whether this is the main reason for the prevailing high price of anti-biotics and the specific steps that have been taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : As far as the prices of antibiotics are concerned, they are also being controlled by the control order. As far as production of anti-biotics is concerned, the Government has entered the market with big production both from HAL and IDPL.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : My question was, whether the bulk of the antibiotics produced and marketed in this country are still accounted for by those 35 foreign concerns.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : They are.

Nitrogenous Fertilizer Project at Vishakhapatnam in Private Sector

*625. **SHRI M. SATYANARAYANA RAO :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a nitrogenous fertilizer project has been approved, in principle, in the private sector at Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh ; and

(b) if so, when the work on this project will start and the time by which it will be ready for production ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Government had approved, in principle, the establishment of a fertilizer factory at Vishakhapatnam by M/s. Occidental Petroleum Corporation (USA). This proposal did not

materialise and is treated as closed. Government have also approved, in principle, the expansion project (in two phases) of M/s. Coromandel Fertilizers Ltd., Vishakhapatnam. The first Phase of expansion has been finally approved and an Industrial Licence also granted on 14.1.71. Effective steps for implementing this phase of expansion have to be taken within six months and the expansion also completed within 27 months from the date of issue of licence. The question of according approval to the Second Phase, as also the issue of the requisite industrial licence is under consideration of Government.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYANA RAO : In view of the shortage of fertilizers and in view of the huge demands for fertilisers on the producers and also in view of the need to increase production, may I know whether Government are going to speed up this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : As far as the licensing for fertilisers is concerned, this particular company could not proceed further because they wanted the import of certain articles which were not permissible. For example, they wanted the import of urea and phosphoric acid, which were not permissible for import, and, therefore, their licence application was rejected.

As far as the shortage of fertilisers is concerned, we are trying to expedite other projects based on coal, and that is why another project in Andhra Pradesh, namely the Ramagundam project is being taken up.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYANA RAO : Since the hon. Minister has referred to the Ramagundam project, may I know the progress made with regard to it ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : The construction work on this project has already started. We have entered into negotiations and collaboration with the foreigners, and it is expected to go into production by the end of 1974.

श्री बाबू राम अहिरवार : क्या यह सही है कि देश में तीन फर्टिलाइजर प्लांट लगाने की योजना सरकार के विचारधीन है ? यदि

हो तो उनमें से कोरबा का जो कोल बेल्ट प्लॉट है, उसके कब तक चालू हो जाने की सम्भावना है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह विशालापननम के बारे में है।

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : While giving licences, may I know whether Government have taken care to see that there will not be unhealthy competition between the private and public sectors, so that Coromandel Fertilisers in the private sector may not produce such type of fertilisers as is produced by the public sector and compete with them ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a permissible form of supplementary question. The hon. Member himself gives the reasons and then asks for the hon. Minister's opinion. Let him better see the rules before asking the supplementary question.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : I want to know whether they have been given permission for expansion or not.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister may reply only to the question part of it.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Since there is shortage of fertilisers, there is no question of unhealthy competition between the private and public sector.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMIKANTHAMMA : The hon. Minister mentioned about the Ramagundam fertiliser plant. The original proposal was to set up a fertiliser plant at Kothagudem, and it went on for twenty years, but later it has been shifted to Ramagundam. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to set up another fertiliser plant, coal-based, at Kothagudem.

MR. SPEAKER : She can ask this question otherwise also. Why should she bring this question from the other question ?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMIKANTHAMMA : He mentioned about Ramagundam. That was why I mentioned that this particular plant had been shifted there from Kothagudem,

whereas the original proposal was to set it up at Kothagudem where there is plenty of coal.

SHRI N. K. P. SLAVE : She is taking the hon. Minister's knowledge of geography.

SHRI SANJEEVI RAO : Since fertiliser is in great demand in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and since the American firm has backed out, are Government contemplating to issue another licence to a similar firm ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Phase I expansion of this company, for producing urea and phosphatic complex has been accepted, and the phase II expansion of this company is also under consideration.

Visit of Delegation from Turkey

*627. **SHRI K. C. PANDEY :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a three-member delegation from Turkey visited India on 8-day visit during April, 1971 ; and

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit and the main points of the talks held between the delegation and the officials of Government of India and the outcome thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) A three-member Turkish Delegation arrived in Delhi on April 18 for a week-long visit to India. It had, however, to curtail the period of its stay in India due to political development in their country necessitating their early return to Turkey.

(b) The purpose of the visit was to enable the delegates to acquaint themselves with developments in India by informal meetings and discussions with various people. The programme of the visit included, *inter alia*, calls on the Vice-President, the Foreign Minister, the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, the Secretaries in the Ministries of External Affairs, Foreign Trade and Industrial Development. Although the Delegation had to cut short its visit it managed to pay courtesy calls on some senior officials. Bilateral relations