

(b) what are the main reasons for the continuing idle capacity;

(c) what steps have been taken during the first six months of 1968 to utilise industrial capacity to the full;

(d) how far the preference in public sector projects by Government and Government agencies has been responsible for this idle capacity; and

(e) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry have submitted to Government a list of concrete cases where purchases are made from public sector undertakings to the exclusion of private sector units and if so, the details thereof and what is Government's reaction to prevent such discrimination against the private sector industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library See No. LT-2736 /68*]

Talcher Industrial Complex

* 802. **SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3786 on the 13th August, 1968 and state:

(a) whether any instructions have been given by Government to the Fertiliser Corporation of India to revise the estimates of the Talcher Industrial Complex; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The Fertilizer Corporation of India have been asked to revise the feasibility report prepared by them for setting up a coal-based fertilizer plant at Talcher.

(b) Preliminary examination of the feasibility report submitted by the Planning and Development Division of the Fertilizer Corporation of India revealed that this needs revision on the lines that Korba and Ramagundam reports were revised. For instance, the report on Talcher estimates capital outlay at about Rs. 63 crores whereas for Korba the revised estimate is

placed at about Rs. 72 crores. In terms of capacity and feed stock, the Talcher proposal is similar to the Korba/Ramagundam proposals. The Talcher report, therefore, needs revision. It has also been considered desirable to get a firm commitment about the price of coal and utilities from the State Government as has been done for Korba and Ramagundam projects. It has also to be examined whether capacity for mining the required quantity of coal exists at Talcher. Another aspect which needs to be examined in detail is the market for the proposed plant at Talcher. A separate market report for Talcher project, as is being done for Korba, after taking into consideration the communications existing in the area has also been asked for.

Removal of Regional Imbalances regarding Industries

* 803. **SHRI BISHWANATH ROY:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government for removing regional imbalances regarding industries during the Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) and (b). In pursuance of a decision taken at the meeting of the National Development Council Committee held on 13th September, 1968, two working groups have been set up by the Planning Commission to make a careful study of the question of regional imbalances regarding industries. One of these groups would recommend the criteria for identification of backward areas and the other group would recommend the fiscal and financial incentives for starting industries in backward areas.

A decision in regard to the steps to be taken to remove the regional imbalances will be taken when the reports of these two working groups have been received.