

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) During 1966-67, the production of nitrogenous fertilizers was 52.6 per cent of the installed capacity.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Steps have been taken to improve production by installing additional balancing equipments in some of the existing factories. Efforts are also being made to rectify the teething troubles in the new factories that have lately gone into production.

Supply of Gas to Gujarat

*219. Shri Virendrakumar Shah: Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had negotiations with the Gujarat Chief Minister regarding the long pending Gujarat gas price dispute; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) Some discussions on the subject were held with the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

(b) It was decided to proceed with the arbitration.

Decline in Foreign Balances

*221. Shri Sharda Nand:
Shri J. B. Singh:
Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:
Shri S. R. Damani:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Heerji Shah:
Shri K. Pradhan:
Shri Ranjit Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in foreign balances held by Government recently,

(b) if so, the extent thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to push up the balances?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Deas): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Financial Assistance Sought by States

Shri K. P. Singh Deo:

*222. Shri P. K. Deo:

Shri Dhirdendranath:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance sought by the States from the Centre since the last General Elections; and

(b) the amount of assistance sanctioned so far?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the various Central Ministries and a statement indicating the position as at the end of May, 1967 will be laid on the Table of the House.

Annual Plans of States

*223. Shri A. B. Vajpayee:

Shri Sharda Nand:

Shri Brij Bhushan Lal:

Shri N. B. Sharma:

Shri Shri Gopal Baboo:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission's Programme Advisers visited various States in connection with the year's annual plans of those States;

(b) if so, the results of the talks held with the State Governments; and

(c) how far these States have agreed to share the allocations for their annual Plans?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) The Pro-