

necks in the growth of the fertilizer industry, Fertilizer Association of India has represented against the longer depreciation period and higher capacity utilisation norms under the retention price and subsidy scheme. An Expert Group has been constituted by the Planning Commission to go into the entire gamut of fertilizer subsidy, pricing etc.

Closure of Coal Based Fertilizer Project of FCI at Korba.

5507. SHRI DILIP SING JU DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizer Corporation of India has finally decided to wind up their coal-based fertilizer project at Korba in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the technical and financial constraints that led the FCI to take this step;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on this project so far;

(d) the steps taken to utilise the machinery of this plant and other infrastructure built for it; and

(e) the number of person likely to be rendered jobless as a result of this winding up and steps proposed by FCI to absorb them?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It has been decided to wind up the coal based fertilizer plant at Korba mainly due to the fact that the coal gasification technology at Ramagundam and Talcher has not stabilised and these plants are showing poor capacity utilisation. Implementation of the Korba Project was held in abeyance due to financial constraints. Further, most of the requirements of

nitrogenous fertilizers in Madhya Pradesh are being met from the new gas based plant of National Fertilizers Ltd., at Vijapur in District Guna. It has also been found that coal gasification technology at present is costlier than production of nitrogenous fertilizers with natural gas as feedstocks.

(c) The total expenditure on the project upto January, 1990 is Rs. 1840 lakhs approximately.

(d) and (e). The equipment of this project is proposed to be utilised in the other two coal based plants to the extent possible. Other infrastructure like land, stores, railway siding is proposed to be disposed of in consultation with the State Government. At present 76 employees including 11 officers are working there. Efforts will be made to get them absorbed in other public sector undertakings. In case, it is not possible, they will be transferred to other units of FCI.

Milk Production

5508. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to boost milk production in different States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken to increase milk production in Orissa during the Seventh Plan;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to introduce some new schemes to boost milk production in that State during Eighth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.