

thermal mix and technical, economic and other parameters as laid down by CEA in conformity with the national power policy and other directives of Government of India as may be given from time to time.

Power Project Agreement with Canadian Company

*307. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and any Canadian Company have decided to set up power projects in private sector;

(b) if so, whether any agreement was signed in this regard;

(c) if so, the salient features of the agreement and the capacity of the proposed power projects; and

(d) the places where these power projects are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) :
(a) to (d). No agreement has been signed by the Government of India with any Canadian Company to set up power projects. However, a Canadian company, M/s. Pacific Electric Power Corporation Ltd. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Uttar Pradesh on 17.11.1993 to set up the Jawaharpur Thermal Power Station (2x400 MW) in Jawaharpur, district Etah, Uttar Pradesh. Further, M/s. Canadian Hydro Developers/MMC Canada Enterprises, Canada, are co-sponsoring the Western Kallar Hydroelectric Project (5 MW) in district Idukki, Kerala, which is being set up by M/s. Ideal Projects and Services (P) Ltd. under its MOU with the Kerala State Electricity Board, signed on 29.9.1992.

[Translation]

R and D in Steel Sector

*308. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up steel development fund in the country;

(b) if so, since when this fund came into operation and the amount deposited therein by the end of March, 1995;

(c) the total percentage of amount allotted from this fund to the steel industry for research and development work by the end of March, 1995; and

(d) the guidelines issued by the Government to spend the rest of the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). The Steel Development Fund (SDF) was constituted in

June, 1978 to assist inter alia the modernisation and development programmes of the steel sector. Government had authorised the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) to add an "element" to the ex-works prices of different steel products of the main producers of steel, namely, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) and Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) and subsequently Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), towards the SDF. This levy was discontinued with effect from 21/22-4-94. The total amount realised through this levy from June 1978 to March, 1995 was Rs. 4521.63 crores.

(c) Since Research and Development work was not among the major activities financed by the SDF, only an amount of Rs. 5 lakh has been disbursed upto 31.3.1995 towards study and survey (testing of low volatile medium coking coal).

(d) Loans from SDF have been sanctioned to the Main producers for financing their schemes for modernisation and expansion. In addition, SDF is also used for other purposes like funding certain research programmes, paying rebate to Small Scales Industries Corporations, and meeting expenditure incurred on Economic Research Unit (ERU) of the Joint Plant Committee.

The fund is managed by a Managing Committee with the following composition :

Secretary (Steel)	Chairman
Secretary (Expenditure)	Member
Secretary (Planning Commission)	Member
Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel	Secretary

The Committee approves utilisation of the SDF for various purposes including the grant of loans from the SDF, interest rates chargeable, etc.

[English]

Subsidy on Urea

*309 SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the cost per tonne of subsidy on indigenously produced urea and also in case of imported urea, separately;

(b) the import target for urea in the current year;

(c) the urea consumption during the last three years and imported quantum of the same; and

(d) the total subsidy paid during the last year and estimated subsidy for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) :

(a) Based on the prevailing retention prices and freight subsidy rates, the subsidy on indigenously manufactured urea during 1994-95 worked out to Rs. 2232 per tonne. In the case of imported urea, as per the contracts signed during 1994-95, the subsidy works out to Rs. 3643/- per tonne.

(b) The gap between indigenous availability and assessed demand for urea is met through imports.

(c) The details of consumption and import of urea during the last three years are as under :

Year	Consumption	(lakh tonnes)
		Imports (On Government Accounts)
1992-93	149.06	18.57
1993-94	158.10	28.08
1994-95 (Estimated)	172.80	28.70

(d) During 1994-95, there was a total expenditure of Rs. 5241.02 crores on fertilizer subsidy in respect of controlled fertilizers. For the current year, a Budget provision of Rs. 5400 crores has been made for the same purpose.

Clearance of Power Projects

*310. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Power Projects with financial involvement of less than Rs. 100 crores do not require clearance from the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have studied the impact of this decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) :
(a) to (d). Yes, Sir. As per the notification issued by the Government of India in October, 1994 under provisions of Section 29 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, every power scheme estimated to involve a capital expenditure exceeding Rs. 100 Crores is required to be submitted to Central Electricity Authority for its concurrence. Such threshold financial limits are fixed by the Central Government from time to time to enable the smaller schemes to be cleared by the State Governments/SEBs at their own level. No comprehensive and formal review of the decision to fix

the financial limit at Rs. 100 crores has been made by the Government. However, in view of the rising project cost and to give further autonomy to State Governments in the matter of according clearances to power projects, Ministry of Power has recently decided that projects costing between Rs. 100 Crores and Rs. 400 Crores and awarded on the basis of competitive bidding need not be required to be submitted to CEA for its concurrence.

[Translation]

Import of Fertilizers

*311. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether chemical fertilizers were imported during last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, fertilizer-wise;

(c) the countries from where imports were made alongwith the details of quantity and value thereof; and

(d) the sale price of those fertilizers in the country, fertilizer-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) :
(a) to (c). Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP) are three major fertilizers which are presently imported. DAP and MOP are decanalized fertilizers and can be imported freely. Imports of urea are canalised.

The countries from which urea was imported during 1994-95 and its quantities and C & F value are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

From the information available with the Department of Fertilizers, imports of DAP and MOP during 1994-95 had been 8.25 lakh metric tonnes and 18.48 lakh metric tonnes, respectively. This includes MOP imports of the order of 4.33 lakh metric tonnes from Germany and 0.65 lakh metric tonnes from Canada under bilateral assistance programmes at a C & F value of Rs. 158.73 crores and Rs. 22.70 crores, respectively. The rest of imports were on private trade account, the details of which are not maintained by the Department of Fertilizers.

(d) The statutory maximum retail price of urea, which is the only fertilizer under price control, is Rs. 3320.00 per metric tonne. The prices of other fertilizers, namely DAP and MOP are fixed in consultation with the State Governments, as has been laid down by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India under the Ad-hoc Concession Scheme. Statewise selling prices of DAP and MOP during kharif 1994 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.