

Production of Fertilizers

10. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM:
SHRIMATI BHARGAVI
THANKAPPAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a record production of fertilisers during the first nine months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether the draft fifth plan capacity target of about six million tonnes in 1978-79 and a production target of four million tonnes of Nitrogen would be achieved; and

(c) if so, the figures of the production of fertilisers in Private and Public sector and further steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir. A production of 10.6 lakh tonnes of nitrogen was achieved during the period 1st April to 31st December, 1975, as compared to 8.2 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period of 1974-75, registering thereby an increase of about 30 per cent. The current year is expected to end with a total production of about 15 lakh tonnes of nitrogen, as compared to 11.85 lakh tonnes during the last year.

(b) and (c). Against the capacity target of 6 million tonnes of nitrogen originally envisaged in the draft Fifth Plan document, the current indications are that, by 1978-79, the capacity may build up to 4.7 million tonnes of nitrogen. This is mainly due to the fact that some of the public sector projects, as envisaged in the draft Plan document, had either to be held back or slowed down because of the resource constraint. Additionally, the capacity of 0.6 million tonnes envisaged for

development in the private sector may not also materialise by the end of the Fifth Plan. As a result, domestic production is expected to be about 3 million tonnes of nitrogen by the end of the Fifth Plan period, against the draft Plan target of 4 million tonnes.

Endeavours would continue to be made to speed up completion of projects under implementation and also develop fresh capacity with due regard to the availability of resources and other factors.

Conversion into Broad Gauge of Mankapur-Lakar Mandi Railway Line (Faizabad Division) in U.P.

11. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to convert Mankapur-Lakar Mandi rail line in Faizabad Division in Uttar Pradesh into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the stage at which this proposal stands at present;

(c) when was the survey for the conversion of this metre gauge line into broad gauge conducted and when is the work likely to start; and

(d) the particular reasons for delay in commencing the work?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d). Preliminary engineering-cum-traffic surveys to consider conversion of Mankapur-Katra (Lakar Mandi) M.G. section into B.G. are in progress. The surveys are expected to be completed by August, 1976. The conversion scheme will be considered in further detail after the results of the surveys are known.