

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1878
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2000
UTILISATION OF COAL FOR PRODUCTION OF UREA
BASUDEB ACHARIA

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

- (a) whether the Government are considering to use coal as feedstock for the production of Urea;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether all coal based fertilizer units have been closed down; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a) & (b): Government have constituted a Task Force on 7th March 2000 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Fertilizers consisting of the representatives of Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power, Fertilizer Association of India, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Projects & Development India Ltd. etc. to explore the possibility of coal based technology for fertilizer sector. The Task Force has been asked to submit its report by 31st August 2000.

(c) & (d): Ramagundam (Andhra Pradesh) and Talcher (Orissa) are the two coal based urea plants of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. in the country. The operations of these plants have been suspended from April 1999 due to an exorbitantly high cost of production and continuing operational losses.