

Title: Urged the Government to take immediate steps to restart and revive the indigenous public sector fertiliser units.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue. The first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, at the time of inaugurating a fertilizer unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India -- which was the first public sector undertaking -- at Sindri in Bihar in 1952, said that he is inaugurating not only an industrial unit but a temple of modern India.

Sir, these temples of modern India are now being demolished one after another. Ten years back, one fertilizer unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India at Gorakhpur was closed down. It has not yet been re-opened. Then in Baraoni, there is no production. The Durgapur unit is closed for months together. Out of three units of Namrop, only one unit is functioning. Two other units are closed in Assam. Both the units of Talchar -- coal based fertilizer units -- are also closed in Orissa. Ramagundam unit in Andhra Pradesh is also closed. It is also a coal based fertilizer unit. The Haldia Fertilizer Unit has not started its production since its inception. For the last 15 years, it has remained closed.

We are depending on import of urea. We are spending more than Rs.2300 crore to import urea. A proposal to revive and revamp the fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation was approved by the United Front Government at a cost of Rs.2200 crore. When this Government came to power, that proposal was shelved.

I want to know from the Government, particularly from the hon. Prime Minister, whether the Government of India will take firm steps to revive our own indigenous fertilizer units of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and the Fertilizer Corporation of India, so that we need not depend on import of urea. This is very important. We are depending on the import of urea whereas we are not reviving our own indigenous fertilizer units. I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to revamp, revive and restart the indigenous public sector fertilizer units of our country.

डा. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं भी इसका समर्थन करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.56 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till

Fourteen of the Clock.

14.05 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes

past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey.