

[2 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) to (d) During 2001-2002, financial assistance was provided under the plan scheme to the tune of Rs. 150.25 lakhs in the North Eastern Region to set up 5 food processing units. Out of the 5, financial assistance of Rs. 74.33 lakhs was provided to 2 units in Assam.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is required to spend at least 10% of annual plan budget for North Eastern Region, as per direction of Government. The Ministry under its plan scheme provides a higher quantum of assistance to 'difficult' areas which includes NE States as compared to assistance in general areas. As against the prescribed minimum 10% of the outlay, the Ministry has been expending more than 10% during the last four years.

The Government has also approved Technology Mission for integrated development of horticulture in NE Region including Sikkim. Under this Mission, Mini Mission IV deals with processing of horticulture produce. During 2001-2002, assistance of Rs. 330 crores has been approved under Mini Mission IV.

Setting up of fertilizer factory in Tripura

*291. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for setting-up a fertilizer factory has been initiated by the Tripura Government;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) whether the proposal would be conceded to by the Central Government and the setting-up of the fertilizer factory expedited?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) to (c) The State Government of Tripura has been exploring the possibility of setting up a fertilizer plant in the State utilizing natural gas available in the region. A private sector fertilizer company has evinced interest for setting up a urea plant in Tripura. There is no licensing requirement for investment in fertilizer sector.