

[28 April, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

superannuation in the next three years ending 31.3.2003. Applications in respect of only 2 officers who are to superannuate in next 3 years received from their respective labs./instts. are presently pending consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Cost of Urea Imports

*491. SHRI GOPALSINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of Urea imports has gone up substantially during the last three years;

(b) if so, the value of imports and the quantity imported during the last five years;

(c) the percentage of value of Urea imports during the same period; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (d) The imports of urea are made on Government account. The quantum of urea imports and their absolute value in the last five years have been as under:—

(Qty in lakh MTs)

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Quantity	Value	Weighted average C&F price (Rs/MT)	Value of Imports in percentage terms to overall cost of production of indigenous urea**
1995-96	37.81	2840.14	7510	32.48
1996-97	23.28	1701.75	7308	19.18
1997-98	23.89	1296.57	4530	11.49
1998-99	5.56	240.00	4316	1.83
1999-2000	5.33	197.16	3698	1.48*

*Provisional

**The Cost of production is as estimated under the Retention Pricing Scheme of urea

Urea imports in value terms have come down since 1996-97. This is due to considerable increase in indigenous production of urea.

The policy of the Government is to achieve maximum degree of self-sufficiency in nitrogenous fertilizers with only marginal quantity of imports to fill the gap between demand and indigenous availability.

Unpunctuality of Delhi-Ghaziabad EMUs

*492. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seized of the difficulties being faced by approximately 1,50,000 rail commuters of Sahibabad due to unpunctuality in running of EMU trains from Ghaziabad to New Delhi—Shakurbasti and also due to inadequate number of EMU trains from Sahibabad / Ghaziabad to New Delhi;

(b) whether, in view of heavy increase in the number of rail users at Sahibabad / Ghaziabad stations, Government propose to introduce some new services to cater to the needs of commuters and other passengers;

(c) if so, by when these services would be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (d) About 8,200 commuters board 29 pairs of EMU trains passing through Sahibabad every day. Introduction of additional services is an on-going process. However, at present, due to saturation of line capacity in Delhi Area and lack of other infrastructure, there is no proposal to add to the existing services since that, if restored to, may jeopardise the safety considerations on this critical section.

Water scarcity in Gir Sanctuary

*493. DRC. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that an acute water scarcity threatens the lives of thousands of wild animals in Gir Sanctuary, and