

In order to encourage investment in the fertiliser sector and to reduce the cost of production, facilities available to fertiliser industry, are at present as under:—

- (i) Deemed Export Benefits to indigenous suppliers of capital goods to fertiliser projects provided such supplies are made under the procedure of international competitive bidding.
- (ii) Reasonable return on investment to the entrepreneurs under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy, at present applicable to existing urea capacity.
- (iii) Concession on sale of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilisers to farmers, to promote the balanced use of plant nutrients.
- (iv) Import of capital goods for setting up of new plant / modernisation of existing units at a concessional rate of customs duty.
- (v) Import of fertiliser raw materials and intermediates at a concessional rate of customs duty.

Committee for revival of IDPL

3658. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRIR.S.GAVAI:

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

- (a) whether Government have set up a committee to look into the revival plan for IDPL;
- (b) if so, the composition of members of the committee;
- (c) the total accumulated losses suffered by IDPL since its inception;
- (d) whether the BIFR has failed to provide any revival package to IDPL since the past several years; and
- (e) if so, by when the committee constituted for its revival is likely to submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) A Two-Member Committee consisting of a member from the industry and a senior officer of the Government

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has been constituted to examine the various facts of IDPL for ascertaining a methodology for its revival.

(c) The accumulated losses of IDPL as on 31.03.2000 are Rs. 1421 crores (provisional).

(d) The BIFR did approve a revival package effective from the 1st April, 1994, which failed in the first year of its operation.

(e) Does not arise, in view of (d) above.

Comprehensive Fertilizer Policy

†3659. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for formulating a new comprehensive fertilizer policy is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the aspects incorporated in the new fertilizer policy;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the existing fertilizer policy in order to enhance production;

(d) by when the proposed fertilizer policy would be implemented; and

(e) the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. In keeping with the policy of economic liberalisation and reforms, all other varieties of fertilizers except urea have already been freed from price, movement and distribution control. The Government intend moving towards a deregulated regime in all the three types of fertilizers, that is, nitrogen, phosphatic and potassic, after taking into account its fiscal capacity on the one hand and making available fertilizers in adequate quantity to the farmers at a reasonable price on the other. It is proposed to translate the intention of the Government into a concrete 'action-plan by formulating a long term policy for the fertilizer sector which would include, *inter-alia*, the Government's decisions on the recommendations made by the High Powered Fertilizers Pricing Policy Review Committee which are being processed.

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.