

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is not just the sick units. The question is: Why was the fund lying idle?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer. He is still in the process of answering.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: They have a proposal to invest this money in new plants as well as in the Gorakhpur unit. As far as production of fertilizer in the country is concerned, it is targeted to increase by 4 per cent this year. The growth in fertilizer production during the first quarter of 1997-98 has been of the order of 34 per cent. During the current year, as major fertilizer projects are being commissioned, additional urea will be generated. As far as this money is concerned, KRIBCHO is already planning to revive the Gorakhpur unit by setting up a new Ammonia Urea plant. This will require an investment of Rs. 1300 crores.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I seek your indulgence. My point is very important. The question is: Why was such a huge surplus fund left idle in the coffers of that particular unit? By doing that, the unit lost money and the production of fertilizer in the country suffered. What could be the reasons?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: That was the Board's decision. The Board has decided to invest it in various projects.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: How long will it lie idle?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has just answered that it was the Board's decision.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Madam, I may come to the help of the Minister as to why this money has been kept like this and I will tell you how long it has been kept. From 1992-93 to 1996-97, every year they have been paying a tax of Rs. 80 crores to Rs. 99 crores. I am not talking about HFCL but I am talking about KRIBHCO itself. What has happened during the last four to five

years, Madam, is, projects are being taken up and projects are being dropped like hot potatoes for reasons which are to be investigated. Just now the Minister has said that a project is going to be taken up at Hazira for ammonia-urea. For the information of the House may I say that there was a proposal for Hazira expan-

Import of Urea

***259. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:**

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

(a) whether Government are still importing Urea;

(b) if so, the names of the countries exporting Urea to India and the quantity of imported Urea country-wise; and

(c) the main agency importing Urea on behalf of India and on what basis this agency has been allocated the import quota?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes Sir, urea is being imported for bridging the gap between demand and indigenous availability.

(b) During 1997-98 (upto July '97), the country-wise origin of urea imports has been as under:

(Qty. In LMTs)

Sl. No.	Country	Quantity
1.	CIS	6.03
2.	Germany	0.29
3.	Kuwait	1.17
4.	Libya	0.81
5.	Qatar	1.33
6.	Romania	1.22
7.	Saudi Arabia	1.46
8.	UAE	1.31

(c) Predominant share of allocation in the import of urea is that of two major public sector undertakings viz. MMTC Limited and State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC). The allocations are made looking to their experience and past performance.

Death of tribal children in the Melghat Forest area

*260. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT
RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 4000 tribal children have died in the Melghat Forest area of the Amravati District of Maharashtra during the last three years and almost everyone is blaming the callous attitude of his Ministry for this tragedy;

(b) if so, what is the response of Government thereto; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken for prevention of such tragedy in the protected forests?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from State Government of Maharashtra and will be placed on the Table of the House.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Krishi Vigyan Kendra

1861. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer the answer to Unstarred Question 4427 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 1997 and state:

(a) what are the locations of the 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras' alongwith their performance and achievements till date; and

(b) what are the details of the activities of 42 selected centres where ICAR has launched innovative projects on technology assessment and refinement through institution village linkage programmes (I.V.L.P.)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in 253 districts of the country. The details of locations of the KVKs are given in Annexure. [See Appendix 181, Annexure No. 50]. The activities of the KVKs include vocational training to farmers including farm-women and youths, on-farm testing, front-line demonstration and in-service training to extension functionaries. During 8th plan period, the KVKs have organized 67,771 training programmes in various fields of agriculture and allied areas, viz, crop production, horticulture, livestock production, home science, agril engineering and other allied enterprises; and benefited 14.39 lakhs farmers, rural youths and farm-women. Front-line demonstrations with the focus on Oilseeds and Pulses were organized in order to demonstrate the production potentials of these crops. During the last five years about 20,000 demonstrations covering an area of 7378 hectares were organized on important pulse crops and about 30,000 demonstrations in 12690 hectares on important oilseeds crops. A total of 2,945 training programmes were conducted for 67,123 extension functionaries.

To speed up the process of transfer of technology various extension activities such as field days (10,893), Farmers Fairs (945), Agricultural Exhibitions (539) and