

efficiency. For achieving significantly higher production levels, technology upgradation is required.

(e) and (f) the company has entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MAX-GB India for upgradation of the technology for manufacture of Pen. U in, the existing Plant through Joint Venture Collaboration. The Joint Venture is subject to approval of the Government which has yet to be given. The matter relating to the proposed Joint Venture between HAL and Max-GB is before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi through Writ Petitions No. CW. 3160/94, 3161/94 and 3181/94. Notices in respect of these Writ Petitions have been received by the Government on the 5th August, 1994.

Steps to boost leather Industry

*280. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL
alias MEEM AFZAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian leather industry has tremendous global market potentialities;

(b) whether a large quantity of untanned leather from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh finds its way to the world market via Nepal and this quality is known as "Jitbut leather" and

(c) if so, what are the details of the plans, if any, to boost the leather industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. A UNDP assisted National Leather Development Programme is currently being implemented by Government of India. This programme covers areas like human resource development, research and development, improvement in support services, environmental protection, enhancing exports etc.

(b) Intelligence reports indicate smuggling of raw leather from India to Nepal through Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Implementation of Kudankulam Atomic Power Project

2272. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of Kudankulam Atomic Power Project was discussed with Russia during the recent visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement this project in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) A very brief reference to bilateral consultations on the Kudankulam Atomic Power Project was made by the Russian side during the Prime Minister's visit to the Russian Federation in June-July this year.

(c) The Kudankulam Atomic Power Project was to be implemented in terms of the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) of November, 1988 signed between erstwhile USSR and India. Consequently the developments in the erstwhile USSR. discussions have been held with the Russian Federation during 1993-94 for implementation after making a fresh assessment of the economic and commercial aspects of the project which have changed since the signing of IGA in 1988.

Heavy Water Requirements

2273. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some agreements have been signed with some foreign countries for the supply of heavy water during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) if so, the names of such countries with terms of agreement for each case separately during each year

(c) whether some States and Union Territories have been provided with

heavy water during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(d) if so, the quantum of supply made in each State and Union Territory during each year;

(e) whether any assessment of requirement of heavy water for each State and Union Territory has been made during 1994-95;

(f) whether Government have their resources to meet the requirement of heavy water of the country during 1994-95;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) An agreement has been signed with Republic of Korea in April 1991 for supply of 100 MT of Heavy Water to them, to be shipped from 1998.

(c) to (e) Heavy Water, being a material used as moderator and coolant in Nuclear Power Reactors, is supplied to the Atomic Power Stations in the Country and therefore its supply to the State/ Union Territories does not arise

(f) and (g) The indigenous production of Heavy Water at current level is not only adequate to meet the Country's requirements, but some surpluses would also accrue which can be exported.

(h) Does not arise.

Setting up of Ammonia Urea Plant in the Middle-East countries

2274. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fertilizer industry of the country has a plan to set up ammonia urea plants in the

Middle-East countries-

(b) if so, the reasons for setting up these plants in those countries;

(c) what are the handicaps in setting up these plants in the country itself; and

(d) whether the Ministry propose to review this decision and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FAL-EIRO): (a) to (d) Natural gas is the most preferred and economically efficient feedstock for ammonia/urea production. Due to constraints in the availability of natural gas in the country, fertilizer companies are exploring the possibilities of setting up ammonia/urea plants in countries where cheap gas is available in abundance. This will ensure committal supplies of urea to India and would help in reducing the gap between demand and supply.

Fund provided to F&ARD

2275. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KAR A PANDEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of around Rs. 55 crores is still available out of the aided fund provided for the Fertilizer Promotional Project under F&ARD of HFC:

(b) whether Government are of the view that the said money should go to F&ARD implementing agency; and

(c) if so, the steps being considered to make the aforesaid money available to F&ARD which is undergoing a threatened existence for sustenance of its useful activities; and infrastructure for another five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FAL-EIRO): (a) to (c) The entire rupee allocation under the Indo-British Fertilizers Education Project (IBFEP) implemented