

the additional anticipated power cannot be extracted, except marginally, under very favourable operating conditions. The rated output of the 235 MWe units is, therefore, assessed presently at 220 MWe. The capability of the present reactor core is not expected to increase beyond 220 MWe on a sustained basis.

#### Production of Heavy Water in the country

361. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of heavy water produced by each of the heavy water plants in the country during the last 3 years with year-wise figures;

(b) the cost of the production of 1 tonne of heavy water in each of these plants during the same period with year-wise figures;

(c) the installed capacity of each of these plants and the extent of capacity utilisation of each of these plants during the last three years with year-wise figures;

(d) whether it is a fact that the production figures at the end of the last financial year reveal that with only 273 tonnes of heavy water produced during the year, the Department of Atomic Energy was just over two-thirds short of its target, as reported in the "Times of India, dated 2th March, 1992 under the newsitem titled "Heavy Water production sluggish"; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) Production of heavy water in the country is commensurate with the inputs and operating parameters. The performance of fertilizer plant linked heavy water plants is dependent upon the sustained quality of designated inputs from the fertilizer plants. The production

of heavy water is adequate to meet the requirements of the present nuclear power programme. All plants except the Heavy Water Plant at Talcher have achieved satisfactory levels of production. Heavy Water being a strategic material it is not in the national interest to reveal any more details.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Cost of construction of nitrogen based fertiliser

362. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of construction of Nitrogen based Fertiliser factory and the costs of production of Ammonia with different feed stocks; alongwith the details;

(b) the Foreign Exchange requirement in the total cost;

(c) whether there is any scope for coal based fertilizer with modern technology in the coalbelt reducing the import bill; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The capital cost of the nitrogenous fertilizer projects (including foreign exchange component) based on different feedstocks, of comparable vintage and capacity, together with cost of production per tonne of ammonia, is given in the statement attached (See below)

(c) The technology available for production of ammonia which is an intermediate for production of nitrogenous fertilizer, based on coal has not been found to be reliable and cost effective.