

- (b) the reasons for delay in operationalising these units; and
- (c) the reasons for preferential treatment to the Ramagundam unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Government of India has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) including the Talcher and Ramagundam units of FCIL subject to assured availability of natural gas. The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) with the mandate to evaluate all investment options for revival of the closed units of FCIL/HFCL and to make suitable recommendations for consideration of the Government. ECOS has already considered various possible investment options for revival of each of the closed units including Talcher and Ramagundam and have finalized its recommendations regarding the suitable financing option. The recommendations of ECOS are under consideration of the Government. No preferential treatment is being given to any specific unit.

#### **Nutrient based subsidy**

1705. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has adopted Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that NBS scheme has not been tested before its implementation; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for implementing such an untested scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the statement. [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to starred question no. 221 (part) (a) and (b)]

(c) and (d) Before the Nutrient Based Subsidy was finalised and approved by the Government, wide consultations were held with the State Governments, fertilizer industries, concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India. Further, Nutrient Based Subsidy has been finalized after consideration and recommendation by the Group of Ministers.

#### **Fixing price of subsidized fertilizers**

1706. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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