

Chittorgarh section and straight conversion on Chittorgarh-Udaipur section. The estimated cost of this work, covering a distance of 297.67 kms., was Rs. 23.62 crores. The work was not recommended owing to low level of traffic on existing metre gauge sections and very low financial returns expected from the project. No investigations for Chittorgarh-Ratlam section were made.

Setting up of a Titanium Dioxide Project in Kerala

*258. SHRI PATTIAM RAJAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Central Government have approved the Titanium Dioxide Pigments Project of the Kerala Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir, Two proposals have been approved.

(b) 1. M/s. The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd., Quilon a Government of Kerala undertaking were granted a letter of Intent on 15-6-74 for the manufacture of 48,000 tonnes of Titanium Dioxide per annum on the basis of maximum utilisation of plant and machinery, subject to the following conditions :—

1. The need for and the terms of foreign collaboration, if any, shall be settled to the satisfaction of the Government.
2. The arrangements for the import of plant and machinery shall be settled to the satisfaction of the Government of India.
3. The manufacture of Titanium Dioxide will be by the Chloride process.

M/s. Kerala Minerals and Metals have submitted a Foreign Collaboration proposal also to implement the project to the annual capacity of 22,000 tonnes in the first phase,

which is under consideration of the Government.

Besides the above, M/s. Travancore Titanium Products Ltd., Trivendrum a public sector undertaking under Kerala Government who already hold a licence for manufacture of 24,500 tonnes of Titanium Dioxide per annum were also granted a letter of intent on 29-7-72 to establish a Titanium Complex comprising twelve items, including Titanium Dioxide to the extent of 15,000 tonnes per annum via Chloride route, subject to the following conditions :—

1. The terms of foreign collaboration would be settled to the satisfaction of the Government.

2. Import of Capital Goods would be allowed with the procedure in vogue and subject to the satisfaction of the Government. Such equipments would be imported strictly in keeping with the capacity proposed to be licenced.

3. The firm would contact the Department of Atomic Energy to secure technical know-how necessary for the production of Titanium Dioxide etc.

Foreign Collaboration to produce synthetic Rutile, using effluents from their existing plant in the first phase of implementation of project has also been approved on 31-12-75. The manufacture of Titanium Dioxide pigments from synthetic Rutile via Chloride route will be in the second phase.

Korba Fertiliser Plant

*259. SHRI BALRAM DAS :

SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 7 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th March, 1976 and state :

(a) the progress made so far in setting up the coal based fertiliser plant at Korba in Madhya Pradesh; and