

(a) whether it is a fact that the pipeline job for Mathura Refinery is proposed to be given to Engineers (India) Ltd. who will act as a sub-agent of Betchel Corporation of America for this job; and

(b) if so, the reason for which this pipeline job is not being given to the pipeline division of Indian Oil Corporation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) No, Sir. The primary responsibility for the implementation of laying Pipelines from Salaya to Mathura is of India Oil Corporation (Refineries & Pipeline Division). They would be assisted in this work by Engineers India Limited and Oil India Limited.

(b) Does not arise.

POWER PROJECTS IN FOURTH PLAN

878. SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the cost estimates of a number of irrigation and power projects included in the Fourth Plan; and

(b) if so, the extent of the increase and the steps taken by Government to economise in the execution of these projects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):

(a) and (b) The total cost of 59 Major Irrigation Schemes, spinning into the Fourth Plan and still under construction is assessed now as about Rs. 2700 crores. As compared with the cost at the time of sanction, the percentage increase is about 112%. [The cost of 50 continuing thermal and hydro power schemes is now assessed as about Rs. 1500 crores. As compared with the cost at the time of sanction, the percentage increase is about 60%.

The State Governments have been advised to set up control boards for all important projects so as to keep a close watch on the construction of the projects. The State Governments have also been

advised to set up cost control cells for getting information on the running costs and take remedial measures wherever costs go up. The need for more detailed investigations before framing projects estimates has also been emphasised. Admixtures like puzzalon are used to reduce cement. Works are constructed in masonry wherever practicable in order to reduce higher costs of concrete. A Committee of Experts was constituted to look into the question of rising costs and they have just completed a report on their study.

STRIKE BY THE EMPLOYEES OF HARYANA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD

879. SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: SHRI
SUNDAR MANI PATEL: SHRI
DAHABHAI V. PATEL: SHRI
LOKANATH MISRA :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Federation of Electricity Employees has notified to Government that if the demands of Haryana State Electricity Board Employees are not conceded soon, the employees of other Electricity Boards in Northern Region would also go on an indefinite strike; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to avert the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):

(a) and (b) The employees of the Haryana State Electricity Board were on strike from 3rd April, 1973, to press for implementation of various demands. The All India Federation of Electricity Employees informed the Minister for Irrigation and Power that the demands of the Haryana State Electricity Board Employees had the support of the Federation and urged that the Union Minister may intervene in the matter for arriving at a settlement. The Haryana State Electricity Board is an autonomous body constituted under the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and is under the administrative

control of the State Government. The matter is, therefore, fully within the competence of the Haryana State Electricity Board and the State Government. The strike has since been called off.

880. [Transferred to the Wh May, 1973.]

PRODUCTION OF PHOSPHORIC ACID

881. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noticed a news item in NPK Indian of March 6, 1973 regarding difficulty in supply of imported phosphoric acid required by fertiliser plants :

(b) what steps Government propose to take to encourage production of phosphoric acid indigenously ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have already asked all manufacturers of phosphatic fertilizers to initiate action for setting up facilities for the indigenous production of phosphoric acid. Several manufacturers are also carrying

out the necessary feasibility studies in this regard.

OUTSTANDING UNSECURED CREDITS

882. DR. K. MATTHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) what have been the outstanding amount of unsecured credits given to (i) private dealers and (ii) cooperatives by Fertiliser Corporation of India and F.A.C.T. at the end of 1970-71 and the latest position regarding collections in various States on this account;

(b) what was the period during which these unsecured credit were given to private dealers and cooperatives; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to recover the amount?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) :

(a) to (c) *Fertilizer Corporation of India*:—Information in respect of this undertaking is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

F.A.C.T.:—The details of outstandings, collections made and balance due are as under :

					(In rupees lakhs)
		Total outstanding	Collection		Balance
Kerala	.	79.80	57.83		21.97
Tamil Nadu	.	153.31	144.41		8.80
Mysore	.	86.95	49.94		37.01
Andhra	.	52.24	46.83		5.41
		372.30	299.01		73.29
The outstanding amount of Rs. 73.29 lakhs relates to the following years :					
					(In rupees lakhs)
	Upto 1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	Total
Kerala	3.85	11.79	0.93	5.40	21.97
Tamil Nadu	0.55	1.37	1.55	5.43	8.90
Mysore	3.23	1.82	14.73	17.23	37.01
Andhra	—	0.03	4.73	0.65	5.41
	7.63	15.01	21.4	28.71	73.29