

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FERTILIZER PROJECTS] WITH AMERICAN COLLABORATION

\*186. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme for setting up a number of fertilizer projects in the country with American collaboration has not made any satisfactory progress;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the delay in implementing the programme will adversely affect the fertilizer production targets set for the Fourth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) if so, what alternative arrangements are being made to attain the targets of production within the prescribed time-limit?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA): (a) and (b) There has been no programme as such to set up fertilizer factories in the country with American collaboration. Some proposals from private parties for the establishment of fertilizer factories with foreign collaboration from U.S.A. and other countries have been received and approved by Government. Two of the parties viz. M/s. Phillips Petroleum Co. and Modi Industries in collaboration with M/s Rohm & Hass, whose proposals were approved in principle, have intimated that they do not propose to pursue their proposals. M/s Phillips Petroleum have withdrawn their proposal due to the tightness of the money-market in the U. S. A., competition for their investment of dollars around the world and the uncertainties created by the devaluation of the pound. M/s Rohm & Hass has withdrawn their proposal because of certain difficulties faced in 'financing', particularly the new regulations of the U. S. Government Department of Commerce as also price deterioration envisaged after the start of production.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Alternative proposals for establishment of fertilizer factories are under consideration.

PRICING OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

\*187. SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently constituted a committee to examine the question of pricing of petroleum products; and

(b) if so, what are the names and qualifications of the members appointed to serve on the committee?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Name	Designation	Qualifications
1. Shri Shantilal H. Shah, (Member, Lok Sabha).	Chairman	B.A., LL.B., Solicitor.
2. Shri B. N. Adarkar, (Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Bombay).	Member	M.A. (Cantab).
3. Dr. B. Natarajan, (Deputy Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi).	Member	M.A., D. Litt. Diploma in Statistics and Certificate in Land Tenure from U.S.A.
4. Shri N. Krishnan, (Chief Cost Accounts Officer, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, New Delhi).	Member	B.A., F.C.W.A. (London), A.M.B.I.M. (London).