

NAPHTHA-BASED PLANT BY THE BIRLAS

134. SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given a permission to a Birla firm to construct a Naphtha-based fertilizer plant at Mirzapur ;

(b) if so, whether imported or indigenous naphtha will be used at the plant ;

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange required for the import of naphtha and the quantum of naphtha required through import ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the National Coal Development Corporation had offered to supply coal from Singareli Coal Field if coal based fertilizer plant was established ; and

(e) if so, reason for giving permission for the establishment of a naphtha-based fertilizer plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMAIAH) : (a) Yes Sir. A letter of indent has been issued.

(b) As far as possible indigenous naphtha will be used.

(c) No import of naphtha is visualised at present for this project.

(d) and (e) The availability of coal from Singareli Coal Fields is known to Government but the production of fertilizer based on naphtha is more economical and hence the preference for naphtha.

DEVELOPMENT REBATE FOR TRANSPORT VEHICLES

135. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal to revive the development rebate for transport vehicles in computing business income for taxation made recently at the Conference of the Chairman of the State Road Transport Corporations has been considered by Government ;

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in the matter ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in taking the decision by Government there-on?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After considering all relevant aspects, Government came to the conclusion that it was not necessary to give development rebate for transport vehicles now.

(c) Does not arise.

INCOME-TAX ARREARS WITH CALCUTTA FIRMS

136. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY : SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are a number of firms in Calcutta at present whose income-tax arrears run into several lakhs of rupees ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what action, if any, is being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI) : (a) to (c) The information is not readily available with Government. The collection of the required information will involve the scrutiny of thousands of files and the result obtained may not be commensurate with the labour and time involved. The details of Income-tax demands outstanding collection in the West Bengal charges, as on 31st March, 1968 are as under :—

	Rupees (Crores)
West Bengal I . . .	76.27
West Bengal II . . .	44.20
West Bengal III . . .	57.34
Calcutta (Central) . . .	31.09
TOTAL . . .	208.90

If the arrears of tax due from any particular firms are required, the same could be furnished by calling for the information from the concerned Commissioner of Income-tax.