

tender for coal gasification plant shall be published soon. Short listing of Lump sum Turnkey (LSTK) bidders for Ammonia, Urea Plants have been done and last date for submitting bid by shortlisted bidders is 25th May, 2015.

(b) No Sir.

(c) It is estimated that the commissioning of the plant would be completed by December 2018.

(d) The Talcher unit is being revived with non-recourse to funding from Government of India. The estimated expenditure of Talcher Project would be Rs.9000 crores. No major expenditure has been done till now.

(e) Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers (C&F) along with MoS (IC) for Petroleum and Natural Gas (P&NG), MoS (IC) for Coal, Power & New and Renewable Energy and Union Minister of State (MoS) (C&F) are regularly reviewing the progress of the revival of Talcher Unit of FCIL.

Self-sufficiency in fertilizer production

1433. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether condition of fertilizers in the country has been more or less stagnant for the last one decade, whereas imports are increasing to meet the growing demand of fertilizers in the country;

(b) whether production of fertilizers has not kept pace with the growing requirement of fertilizers : and

(c) if so, the details of measures proposed to boost the growth of fertilizer industry so that there is self-sufficiency and sustained growth of fertilizers industry in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR) : (a) to (c) The production/ Imports of major fertilizers in the country for the last one decade is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The month-wise demand/requirement of fertilizers is assessed and projected by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of each cropping season. On the basis of month-wise & state-wise projection given by DAC, Department of Fertilizers allocates sufficient/

adequate quantities of fertilizers to States by issuing monthly supply plan and continuously monitors the availability. The gap in the demand and domestic production of fertilizers is met through imports.

The Government has notified the New Investment Policy (NIP) 2012 and amendment to NIP-2012 on 2nd January 2013 and 7th October 2014 respectively to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector to boost the indigenous production of Urea and to reduce import dependency.

All the P&K fertilizers are under the OGL. The gap between requirement and indigenous production of fertilizers is met through imports. India's dependency on import at present is to the extent of 25% of our requirement of Urea, 90% in case of Phosphates and 100% in case of Potash. As we are dependent on import of either finished fertilizer or its raw material to a great extent, it is not possible to achieve self-sufficiency in fertilizer sector at present. However, the Government has been encouraging Indian Companies to establish Joint Ventures abroad in Countries which are rich in fertilizer resources for production facilities with buy back arrangement and to enter into long term agreement for supply of fertilizers and fertilizer inputs to India. Further, the Department is also working with the goal of having access to acquisition of the fertilizer raw materials abroad to ensure assured supply of raw materials and fertilizers inputs to augment indigenous production and reduce import dependency.

Statement

Production and import of urea, DAP & complex fertilizers from 2005-06 to 2014-15

(Figure in lakh MT)

Year	Urea		DAP		Complex Fertilizers		Total	
	Prod.	Import	Prod.	Import	Prod.	Import	Prod.	Import
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2005-2006	200.98	20.57	46.28	24.36	67.63	0.00	314.89	44.93
2006-2007	203.09	47.18	48.52	28.41	74.64	0.00	326.25	75.59
2007-2008	198.58	69.29	42.12	27.22	58.50	0.00	299.20	96.51
2008-2009	199.22	56.67	29.93	61.91	68.48	0.00	297.63	118.58
2009-2010	211.12	52.09	42.47	57.60	80.38	0.00	333.97	109.69
2010-2011	218.80	66.09	35.37	74.09	87.27	9.80	341.44	149.98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2011-2012	219.84	77.92	39.63	68.97	77.70	36.44	337.17	183.33
2012-2013	225.75	78.66	36.47	56.41	61.80	4.01	324.02	139.08
2013-2014	227.15	70.87	36.11	32.61	69.13	3.62	332.39	107.10
2014-2015	225.85	87.49	34.44	38.17	78.32	2.91	338.61	128.57

Creation of BBNL for NOFN Project

1434. KUMARI SELJA:

DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has created Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) for administrating the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) operations and execute the projects implemented by telecom PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of areas where all Gram Panchayats have been covered by NOFN and their status at present?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project to connect Gram Panchayats (GPs) through Optical Fibre for enabling broadband connectivity was approved by Government on 25.10.2011. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz. Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) was incorporated on 25.02.2012 to create, operate, maintain and manage NOFN infrastructure.

Under NOFN project, the mandate is to connect all Gram Panchayats (Approx. 2.5 Lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) by bridging the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity. Bandwidth of at least 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) so created in all the estimated 2,50,000 GPs shall be used by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis. These access providers/service providers like mobile operators, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), cable TV operators, content providers can launch various services in rural areas. Various applications like e-health, e-education, e-governance, e-mart, e-mandi etc. can also be provided on this network.

BBNL has entered into agreement with three Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), RailTel and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) to utilize their existing optical fiber and to implement the work on ground for laying incremental optical fiber for connecting all GPs.