

[8th December, 2000] RAJYA SABHA

Setting up of a petrochemical industry in Barauni

† 2064. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a petrochemical industry in Barauni, Bihar;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government

have no proposal to set up a petrochemical industry in Barauni, Bihar. Since the initiation of economic de-regulation, the Government is encouraging private entrepreneurs to set up petrochemical plants using state-of-the-art technology and face the emerging competition.

Export of urea to Nepal

2065. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nepal does not produce fertilizers and imports about 1,80,000 tonnes from Asian and Gulf countries, against a domestic demand of 3,50,000 tonnes, per year;

(b) whether Nepal is offering to give interest subsidies to importers; and

(c) if so, what action Government are taking to increase its export of urea to Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Nepal does not produce fertilizers. Its domestic demand is estimated to be 3,50,000 metric tonnes per year. Government does not have information as to how much of its imported from Asian and Gulf countries.

(b) The Government does not have information about Nepal's policies regarding subsidies to importers.

(c) Under the Export-Import Policy of 1997-2002, export of urea is restricted. However Government has permitted export of urea to Nepal from time to time. The exports of urea to Nepal in the last three years have been as under:

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Year	Qty. Permitted (MT)	Qty. Actually Exported (MT)	Agency
1997-98	20,000	14,687	MMTC*
1998-99	40,000	Nil	MMTC*
1999-2000	60,000	23,317	TFFCO

*The exports by MMTC were permitted on Off-shore trading basis.

Shortfall in fertilizer production

2066. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a shortfall in fertilizer production (over all) and in particular nitrogenous fertilizers, during the period April-June, 2000, as compared to the targeted production and actual production during the same period, last year;

(b) if so, what was the actual production, targeted production and the last year's production during the above said period and the percentage of shortfall; and

(c) what are the primary reasons for the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Overall production of nitrogenous fertilizer was slightly lower than the target for the period April-June, 2000. The details of actual targeted production of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers during April-June, 2000, as compared to the targeted and actual production during the same period of last year are given below:—

(in lakh tonnes)

Fertilizers Nutrients	April-June 2000		% age achieve- ment of target	April-June 1999		% age achieve- ment of Target	% increase/ decrease over last year
	Target	Actual		Target	Actual		
Nitrogen	24.52	23.95	97.7	24.75	24.96	100.9	(-) 4.1 (+)
Phosphate	8.29	8.75	105.6	7.81	7.39	94.6	18.4