

(d) if so whether any intensive assessment has been made in this direction; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) In recognition of the need to have a long term fertilizer policy, Government have already initiated action and have prepared a draft long term fertilizer policy document. The draft long term fertilizer policy document has been discussed in various fora consisting of all the stakeholders including farmers' representatives, specialists, industry representatives, economists and the relevant persons. Further, Government has put the draft long term fertilizer policy document on website [www.fert.nk.in](http://www.fert.nk.in) to elicit wide response to the proposed policy in addition to other measures outlined above,

**Revival of fertilizer unit at Gorakhpur**

† 3614. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to revive the fertilizer unit at Gorakhpur;

(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) A decision has already been taken by the Government to close/hive-off the Gorakhpur unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. as it has not been found techno-economically feasible. However, Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) had submitted a proposal to set up a ammonia/urea plant at the existing site of Gorakhpur units as an estimated cost of Rs. 1536 crore with an annual urea capacity of 7.68 lakh metric tonnes to the Government for investment approval under the prescribed procedure. This proposal along with three other proposed urea projects in the Public/Cooperative Sector, were approved 'in

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

principle' by the Government in April, 1999, subject to investment appraisal by the Public Investment Board (PIB). Investment appraisal of all these projects was undertaken by the PIB in July 1999. In June, 2000 a proposal for taking a final investment decision on these projects was considered and deferred by the Government. This proposal was formulated taking into account the observations of the PIB regarding the viability of the projects, desirability of encouraging use of Liquefied Natural Gas as feedstock to reduce the incidence of subsidy and the need to stagger the implementation of the proposed projects due to limited demand supply gap forecasts.

**Increase in Fertilizer subsidy relief to farmers**

3615. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers are getting unremunerative prices of foodgrains; and

(b) if so whether Government are considering increase in subsidy on fertilizers, to give some relief to farmers for future cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) While the wholesale price of certain agricultural commodities at some selected centres are ruling below the minimum support prices announced by the Government there is no proposal at present to increase subsidy/concession to fertilizers.

**Impact of Insecticides/Pesticides imports on the domestic industry**

3616. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic industry, particularly in Tamil Nadu, is suffering heavy losses due to import of insecticides and pesticides;

(b) whether Government are going to frame schemes and market the goods in the era of stiff competition from multinationals; and

(c) whether Government are having any plan/schemes to safeguard the indigenous industries producing fertilizers and pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF