

(e) payments made so far to the employees against their terminal dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 1206 employees, 1188 have opted for Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) and have been relieved till 4.2.2003. BIFR has not scheduled any hearing so far.

(c) Acceptance of VSS of such employees who have opted for VSS will enable management to make payment of terminal dues to the relieved employees as per the scheme of VSS.

(d) The release orders were issued in a phased manner from 27.11.2002 to 4.2.2003.

(e) As on 4.3.2003, a total of Rs. 15.99 crore has been paid to the workers towards various terminal dues like ex-gratia, gratuity, etc.

VSS in Haldia

1742. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some employees of Haldia, FP&ARD and Marketing of HFC were released on VSS (Voluntary Separation Scheme) with retrospective effect from 6th January, 2003 though the release orders were issued to the employees concerned on 12th January, 2003 onwards;

(b) if so, whether denial of wages for the period from 6th January onward till the date of actual release is not a violation of existing labour laws including Payment of Wages Act;

(c) if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) if yes, action taken to pay the wages for the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (d) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) has released 899 employees of Haldia Unit, 495 employees of FP&ARD and 160 employees of Marketing Divisions of HFC w.e.f 6th January, 2003. The employees do not stand to

lose financially, as they had to be otherwise paid notice period pay ranging from one month to three months.

Revival of Barauni Unit of HFCL

1743. SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close Barauni unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation;

(b) whether it has been decided to continue Namrup Unit of the Corporation which is in a similar situation with several steps for its revival; and

(c) if so, keeping in view the requirement of fertilizers in the Northern Region and need of agriculture in Bihar, whether Government propose to revive Barauni Unit on the same line as has been adopted for Namrup and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to close down the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) including its Barauni unit as the same has not been found techno-economically viable.

(b) The revival and revamp of Namrup units of HFC was decided in 1997. However, Barauni unit and Namrup units of HFC are not similarly placed in terms of feed-stock, etc.

(c) No, Sir. However, adequate supply of urea is ensured to all the States at a uniform Statutory Sale Price and no State is allowed to suffer from shortage of fertilizers.

Pollution in Metros

1744. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the pollution level of each of the metros in the country;

(b) what drastic action is being contemplated to bring down the pollution levels in the metros;