

Production cost of urea

†5152. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken measures to reduce the cost of production of urea;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken during the last three years;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether cost of production is increasing because of extravagance of the officers; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH) : (a) to (e) As part of policy parameters for 7th and 8th pricing periods under the Retention Pricing Scheme covering the period from 1-7-1997 to 31-3-2000 and 1-4-2000 to 31-3-2003 respectively, the Government has carried out reassessment of 20 urea units *w.e.f.* 1-4-2000, revision of consumption norms *w.e.f.* 1-7-1997 for the 7th pricing period and 1-4-2000 for 8th pricing period, withdrawal of vintage allowance and increase in normative levels of capacity utilization. These measures were aimed at bringing down the cost of production of urea.

The RPS has been replaced by the New Pricing Scheme (NPS), which has come into effect from 1-4-2003. The NPS aims at greater transparency; uniformity and efficiency in subsidy disbursements to urea units and inducing them to take cost reduction measures on their own and be competitive.

Assam Gas Cracker Project

5153. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of developments made, in chronological order, on Assam Gas Cracker Project from the time of conceptualization, laying of foundation stone, year-wise progress, present status and target fixed;

(b) details of original commitments made by oil companies, basis of availability of gas resources, details of deviations made by oil companies on

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.