

(d) Comprehensive rehabilitation proposals regarding the sick Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) are under submission of Government and remedial measures such as revamping in their respect will be taken after decision with regard to the proposals is taken with the sanction of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction. The revival scheme in respect of PDIL is under implementation. As regards the other companies at Serial Numbers one to four in para (c) above, the matter depends on the view that is taken on the proposals for the financial restructuring.

Manufacture of sub-standard drugs/medicines

409. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of drug manufacturers in the Country are manufacturing sub-standard drugs/medicines resulting into adverse reaction on human beings;

(b) if so, whether the Drug Control Authorities in various States have contemplated any action to ensure manufacture of good quality drugs/medicines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to ensure manufacture/availability of qualitative drugs/medicines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) There are no such reports about large number of drug manufacturers in the country involved in manufacture of sub-standard drug/medicines and their resulting in adverse reaction in human beings. Under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder, the enforcement of quality control of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals is regulated by the respective States.

(d) Does not arise.

Families benefiting under P.D.S.

†410. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) How many families in the country were benefited under Public Distribution System, by providing them items at fair prices, State-wise and year-wise during the last three years;

(b) whether the people living below poverty line are not receiving the full benefit of the amount of the grant under Public Distribution System; and

(c) if so, Government's plans in this regard?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[3 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The benefits under the present form of Public Distribution System (PDS) are available to all families. Access to these benefits through Fair Price Shops (FPS) by means of ration cards is arranged by State Governments. Number of ration cards issued to families state-wise and year-wise during the last three years as reported by the State Government/UT Administrations indicating the number of families benefited is given in the Statement (*See below*)

(b) In the present form of PDS in which population living above poverty line (APL) is also extended the benefits of subsidised foodgrains and other essential commodities, the benefit of subsidy is not received by the people below poverty line (BPL) alone.

(c) The identification of families below poverty line and issue of special ration cards to them for issue of specially subsidised foodgrains after the introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in June, 1997 has been the first step towards streamlining the PDS with its focus on the poor. A consensus is needed for providing more foodgrains under TPDS to BPL families thereby targeting the food subsidy to the poor alone.

Statement

The State-wise and Year-wise Number of Ration Cards

(Figures in Lakhs)

State/UT	Year		
	1997 AS ON DEC.,97	1998 AS ON 18.12.98	1999 AS ON 16.11.99
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	162.00	164.55	164.55
Arunachal Pradesh	2.52	3.00	3.59
Assam	12.95	41.74	42.48
Bihar	84.26	173.00	173.00
Goa	2.84	2.94	3.01
Gujarat	97.96	101.21	104.62
Haryana	34.11	34.14	34.22
H.P.	11.37	11.80	11.79
J&K	13.48	13.48	13.48
Karnataka	102.40	103.07	111.41
Kerala	59.44	60.80	61.37
M.P.	127.11	133.81	133.78

1	2	3	4
Maharastra	181.13	190.85	193.98
Manipur	1.80	1.80	1.80
Meghalaya	0.98	1.95	1.95
Mizoram	1.62	1.64	1.73
Nagaland	2.00	2.01	2.01
Orissa	74.61	81.01	81.26
Punjab	44.85	50.42	52.10
Rajasthan	95.37	97.74	98.07
Sikkim	0.66	0.66	0.66
T.N.	147.14	144.12	154.46
Tripura	6.63	6.79	6.86
U.P.	241.33	255.44	255.44
West Bengal	148.13	153.48	156.24
A&N Islands	0.78	0.85	0.85
Chandigarh	1.93	0.02	2.03
D.N. Haveli	0.29	0.49	0.50
D & Diu	0.10	0.27	0.29
Delhi	30.51	30.51	34.45
Lakshadweep	0.11	0.12	0.12
Pondicherry	2.50	2.51	2.53
TOTAL:	1692.91	1866.22	1904.63

Drug Crunch in Super Bazar

411. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned Super Bazar drug crunch, reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 3rd November, 1999.

(b) If so, whether several medicine suppliers and distributors of Super Bazar have not been paid, which is resulting into shortage of medicines at Super Bazar medicine centres;

(c) If so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) The steps taken by Government to meet the situation and to make available all important medicines in Super Bazar?