

(b) the number of letters out of them which were acknowledged;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued containing positive and negative replies respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The desired information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sick Fertilizer units

437. SHRI S. AUSTIN:

SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of sick fertilizer units in the country;

(b) whether these sick units have approached Government for assistance;

(c) what measures Government propose to take to remedy their sickness; and

(d) what is Government's policy regarding sickness in the fertilizer industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Two fertilizer producing public sector companies, namely Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) have been declared as sick companies by the Board for Industrial and

Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(b) to (d) The BIFR has directed the Government and the management of the above two companies to submit an agreed viable revival package for each of the said companies. Any action with regard to the revival of these companies would depend on the final outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR which is a quasi-judicial authority.

Closed units of Hindustan Fertilizer Company Limited

438. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of units of the Hindustan Fertilizer Company Limited currently under closure;

(b) the reasons therefor and the total loss of output on account of such closure;

(c) the total outlay, in foreign exchange, on account of additional import of fertilizers consequent to the cutback in domestic fertilizer output; and

(d) the principles underlying the policy which encourages fertilizer imports at the cost of non-utilisation of domestic capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Except the Haldia Project, which could not be commissioned due to repeated equipment breakdowns during commissioning, no unit of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) is lying closed at present. However, Namrup-II plant is presently under shutdown for repair/ maintenance work and is expected to resume production in April, 1994.

Namrup-II plant had produced 1500 tonnes of urea during the month before the shutdown.

(c) and (d) Between April-December, 1993, 20.7 lakh tonnes of urea has been imported involving a foreign exchange outgo equivalent to Rs. 703.41 crores.

Multinational Companies Flouting Government's Price Regulations

439. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several multinational pharmaceutical companies are flouting Government's price regulations by leasing out their brand names to the manufacturers in the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the steps taken by Government to identify the Multinational Drug Companies flouting the price norms; and

(c) what action has been taken/is proposed to be taken by Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (c) Leasing of brand names by Pharmaceutical Companies is not governed under the Drugs (Prices Control) order, 1987 but through the Trade & Merchandise Mark Act of 1958. However, as per the notification No. S.O. 719(E) dated 21.7.88, Small Scale Units manufacturing Category II formulations, are exempted from seeking price approval, provided such formulations are marketed by the concerned unit/company in their own brand names or in the brand name of any other SSI unit.

The concerned State Drug Controllers are empowered to take appropriate action on any violations under the DPCO.

Scheme for revival and modernisation of Barauni Unit of HFC

440. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister

of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation has forwarded any scheme to the Union Government to revive and modernise its Barauni unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) After examining various alternatives for rehabilitation of Barauni unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC), the company has suggested setting up of a new naphtha based ammonia plant and matching urea plant at the existing site.

(c) The management of HFC, with the approval of their Board of Directors, had referred the company, including its Barauni unit, to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in terms of the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special) Provisions Act, 1985. The BIFR declared HFC as a sick company on 12.11.1992. Any decision on the future of Barauni unit would depend on the outcome of the deliberations pending before the SIFR which is a quasi-judicial authority.

Prices of Medicines

441. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increase in the prices of medicines is higher than that of all other commodities;

(b) what are the names of the medicines both controlled and decontrolled, whose prices have gone up by more than 30 per cent from 1 st July, 1992 to 30th June, 1993; and