

T.B., have been consuming forty to forty-five percent of world's Rifampicin production;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of the said anti-T.B. drug in adequate quantity, for treatment of the patients;

(f) the details of Rifampicin manufacturers in the country with category wise details of the MNCs and other large scale manufacturers and those in the small scale sector; and

(g) the quantity of Rifampicin and the respective units that manufactured the same during April-June, 1994 and during the corresponding period last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. Rifampicin is an important anti T.B. drug which is manufactured from intermediate Rifa-S also which is imported in accordance with the Government Policy and is now also being indigenously manufactured.

(b) No, Sir. The policy has been announced on 26.7.1994.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) India is a major consumer of Rifampicin.

(e) The various policy measures undertaken by Government in line with the Drug Policy have resulted in building up a domestic base for the production of Rifampicin.

(f) and (g) The manufacturers of Rifampicin from the basic stage are M/s. Gujarat Themis Biosyn Limited (GTPL) and M/s. Lupin Chemicals Limited. Their production was as following:—

(Quantity in tonnes)

	April—June	
	1993	1994
1. GTBL	1,807	18,145
2. Lupin.	1,210	18,520

Decision to Close Down FP&ARD

2289. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA:

SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE;

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

(a) whether Government have not taken any decision to close down the Fertilizer Promotion & Agricultural Research Division (FP&ARD) of HFC and that for 1994-95 the expenditure on FP&ARD staff will be met out of the overall budget provisions of HFC;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Board of Directors of HFC have decided to close down FP&ARD and a clearance for the same has been sought by the Chairman of HFC from Government; if so, what was the role of Government's representatives in the Board; and

(c) the reasons for which the HFC Board took such a decision in isolation when HFC till date could not offer a revival scheme to BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government has not taken any decision to close down Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division (FP&ARD) of HFC. The Expenditure on FP&ARD staff is being met out of the overall budget provision of HFC.

(b) and (c) The Board of Directors of HFC considered the matter in their meeting held on 9.2.1992 and unanimously resolved that in view of the critical financial position of the Company, attempt should be made to find alternative employment for the staff working in FP&ARD; failing alternative employment within six months, the employees may be retired/discharged/retrenched in accordance with the rules. By that time, the Company had not been referred to the BIFR. However, no staff was retrenched. The matter was again considered by the Board in March, 1993, and the Board took note of the fact that the Company management had sent a detailed note to the Government bringing out the difficulties in continuing with the FP&ARD without any grant from the Government/external funding agencies. The Board, however, directed that the management may continue using the existing staff of FP&ARD and incur minimum possible expenditure till the decision of the Government was conveyed to the Company.

Rate of Natural Gas to Produce Urea

2290. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the rate at which natural gas is made available to fertilizer plants for preparing urea;

(b) the cost of urea-production; and

(c) what is the conversion cost of urea in other countries of the world, and details of the cost of each component of urea separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) At present, the price of natural gas supplied to fertilizer plants at landfall point is Rs. 1750.00 per thousand cubic metres, excluding royalty, sales tax and transport charges. For gas supplied on HRI pipeline, transport charges @ Rs. 850.00 per thousand

cubic metres are payable in addition. The price of gas in the North East region is Rs. 1000/- per thousand cubic metres. A discount upto a maximum of Rs. 400/- per thousand cubic metres is also available in the North East on a case-basis.

(b) The cost of production of urea by indigenous manufacturers varies from unit to unit depending upon the installed capacity, technology and feed-stock used, as also the vintage of the unit. However, the current weighted average retention price (i.e. cost of production plus reasonable return on networth as determined by the Government for each unit) of urea is about Rs. 4900/- per tonne.

(c) The details of cost of production of urea in other countries is not available as the foreign suppliers do not normally divulge these facts.

Impact of Decentralisation of imports & Decontrol of Fertilizers on Fertilizer Industry

2291. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIHLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any critical analysis of the impact on the production and consumption scenario of fertilizers and overall setback to the fertilizer industry with the hike in the prices followed by decentralisation of imports besides decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures are contemplated by Government to resolve the problems of the fertilizer industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Decontrol of prices of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers led to increase in their prices in the open market, resulting in lower off-take. Lower off-take, coupled with