

New drug for Arthritis

2131. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the new medicine for Arthritis developed by IDPL as reported the Indian Express of the 26th June, 1990:

(b) whether this drug has been tested and efficacy established, if so, what are the details regarding its side effects and toxicity; and

(c) whether this drug is being commercially produced and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA): (a) to (c) IDPL has reported that it is evaluating a New Chemical Entity (NCE) for cure of Arthritis. Phase I and Phase II and limited Phase III clinical trials conducted so far indicate the NCE to be effective and safe. It will become a drug and commercial production thereof will be undertaken by the company only after satisfactory outcome of the trials and clearance by regulatory authorities.

Export of Maruti vehicles to Hungary

2132. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether more Maruti vehicles are being exported to Hungary, as reported in the Sunday Mail of the 10th June, 1990;

(b) whether these exports are being done despite financial losses on account of use of components imported against hard currency; and

(c) if so, what has been the total foreign exchange outgo on Maruti project, including all imports of tech-

nology, spare parts etc. since inception and what is the total foreign exchange earned on exports of these vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Maruti Udyog Ltd. has exported 2505 vehicles to Hungary till now. 670 cars are being shipped in the month of September, 1990. Another 330 cars are expected to be shipped by November, 1990.

(b) There is no financial loss being incurred on account of exports. The sales of cars to Hungary is in US dollars, and there is a sizeable net earning in hard currency as a result.

(c) The total foreign exchange expenditure till the end of 1989-90 since inception has been US \$ 852.69 million. The total foreign exchange earned during the same period was US \$ 62.42 million through exports, deemed exports and domestic sale againsts foreign exchange.

National Capital Power Project at Dadri

2133. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that work on the National Capital Power Project at Dadri in Uttar Pradesh has started; and

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of this project and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project was sanctioned in February, 1987 at an estimated and approved cost of Rs. 1063.60 crores. The first 210 MW unit of the project is scheduled for commissioning in