

what remittances have been made on such investments including amount remitted during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what are the imports of these companies during the last three years company-wise for bulk drugs, drugs intermediates, penultimates, chemicals, plant and machinery;

(c) what are the sale turnover of these companies during the last three years and their profits and amounts transferred to their reserves during the same period;

(d) whether imports, unauthorised production and high profits of these companies are detrimental to the growth and development of the national drug industry; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) A statement showing the requisite information to the extent available, is attached. [See Appendix CXXV, Annexure No. 31]. The top 10 foreign companies have been identified on the basis of total remittances made during the three-year period ending 1980-81.

(d) Imports of raw materials and other products are allowed to all drug companies, including foreign drug companies, as per Import Policy in force from time to time. Some items of formulations of these companies have been claimed to be covered by certain industrial approvals but such claims have not been found to be acceptable. This phenomenon is not limited to these companies but covers a number of both foreign and Indian drug companies. The prices and companies are controlled under the Drug. (Prices Control) Order, 1979. Hence it cannot be concluded that

the operations of the 10 companies in question are detrimental to the growth and development of the national drug industry.

(e) Does not arise.

Import of Soda Ash

687. SHRI SADASHIV

BAGAITKAR:

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN
REDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Secretaries' Committee of Economic Ministries was asked to go through the whole gamut of soda ash imports in the country;

(b) if so, what are the findings of this Committee and what policy decision has been taken by Government, particularly relating to the import of soda ash to meet the demand; and

(c) what decision has been taken by Government with regard to price reduction formula?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH): (a) and (b) A Standing Group headed by the Commerce Secretary has been set up to examine the impact of import policy, import duties and other related factors on the utilisation of installed capacities in the country for industrial production. The Standing Group had examined the existing import policy of soda ash also. The Standing Group did not recommend any change in the existing import policy of soda ash.

(c) The report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) on the cost of production of soda ash has been made available to the Government. The Government are yet to take a view on the various issues involved.