

(b) Cabinet Committee Economic Affairs (CCEA) in 2007 gave 'in principle' approval to examine the feasibility of revival of the closed units of FCIL and HFCL. Cabinet in 2008 accorded approval for revival of the closed units of FCIL and HFCL subject to non recourse to Government funding. CCEA in 2011 approved revival of Talcher, Sindri and Ramagundam units of FCIL on nomination basis by Public Sector undertakings and revival of Gorakhpur and Korba units of FCIL and Barauni, Durgapur and Haldia units of HFCL through 'bidding route' by setting up new plants.

In order to facilitate the revival of closed units of FCIL, CCEA in 2013 approved waiver of GoI loan and interest on FCIL to make the net worth of FCIL positive and to seek its de-registration from BIFR. CCEA also decided that proposal/ action plan on revival of HFCL units will be taken up once revival of FCIL units is on track.

Recently the Cabinet in its meetings held on 31.3.2015 approved revival of Gorakhpur and Barauni units and on 21.05.2015 approved revival of Sindri unit through bidding route on revised terms in accordance with the framework approved by CCEA in 2011.

Bid process for Gorakhpur and Sindri was initiated. There was lukewarm response to RFQ for Gorakhpur and Sindri and only one application each was received at the first stage *i.e.* for qualification. It has been decided not to proceed further with the bidding process. Government is considering revision in the terms and conditions of bidding for Gorakhpur and Barauni units to make the offer more attractive for prospective investors and also to revive Sindri unit by FCIL itself through joint venture of Public Sector Undertakings.

(c) Ramagundam unit is due to commence commercial operations by end of September 2018.

Rehabilitation scheme for HAL

360. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a modified rehabilitation scheme for Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL), Pimpri is pending consideration of Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for delay in approval of the draft scheme; and

(c) by when the scheme is likely to be approved and production activities of HAL are started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND

FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Modified Draft Rehabilitation Scheme (MDRS) for Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL), Pimpri, is under active consideration of the Government. The Comments of various stakeholders have been called for. On receipt of the comments, the MDRS for HAL would be submitted before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for consideration.

Efforts to reduce over-consumption of urea

361. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rising consumption of highly subsidized urea has resulted in declining consumption of other fertilizers;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering a revision in prices of urea or undertaking any other efforts to reduce the over-consumption of urea and the imbalanced use of soil nutrients, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current unpaid subsidy bill of the urea sector and whether Government plans to cut subsidy on chemical fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the time-line for the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):

(a) Yes, Sir. However, disparity between prices of urea and P&K fertilizers is one of the reasons for decline in consumption of P&K fertilizers.

(b) No, Sir. The Government of India is promoting the use of Neem Coated Urea and also promoting soil test based balanced use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with bio fertilizers and organic fertilizers.

(c) and (d) The current unpaid subsidy bills for imported urea is ₹ 1164.47 crore and for indigenous urea is ₹ 17513.30 crore.

Steps to reduce prices of medicines

362. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been engaged in the process of bringing down the prices of medicines for such ailments which call for lifelong medication and also those medicines which are meant for serious diseases like cancer and are very costly;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken for the said purpose; and