

Anti-smoking Treaty

*179. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Health Assembly had adopted a draft Anti-smoking Treaty with the support of 170 nations;
- (b) if so, whether India has subscribed and signed the treaty;
- (c) whether US, Germany and China have objected to the treaty; and
- (d) if so, the details of their objections?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The 56th World Health Assembly held in May, 2003, unanimously adopted the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). India signed the FCTC on 10th September, 2003, and later on ratified the same on 5th February, 2004. USA, Germany and China have since signed the FCTC.

Inflated price of imported Potash

†*180. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the middlemen usurp a major part of the subsidy being provided by Government for importing potash by showing the inflated price *i.e.* more than the international price;
- (b) whether increase in the rate by even one dollar results in loss of crores of rupees to Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reaction of Government and the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No Sir, the import of Muriate of Potash (MoP) is decanalised and can be imported freely. M/s. Indian Potash Ltd. (IPL) a joint sector company is the major importer of MoP, who imports almost 60% of the entire quantity. Normally,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.