

[22 August, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

been admitted as SLP(C) No. 3668/2003. The Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 10.3.2003 directed, the Government, *inter alia*, to "consider and formulate appropriate criteria for ensuring essential and life saving drugs not to fall out of the price control and further directed to review drugs, which are essential and life saving in nature till 2nd May, 2003." Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has brought out the National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 after the review of the National Essential Drugs List, 1996.

#### **Special Subsidy Package**

3193. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to offer further special subsidy on the purchase of fertilizers for farmers considering that most of the fertilizers firms are looking at Disinvestment;

(b) if so, what would be the special subsidy package on fertilizers for the year 2003-2004; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND

FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to change the level of subsidies on fertilizers. The level of subsidy/concession being extended on various fertilizers is independent of the issue of disinvestment.

#### **Release of document on Union Carbide**

3194. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Union Carbide case of 1984 which has killed at least 8,000 and crippled more than 20,000 till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently a document has been released claiming that 'unproven technology' had been used by Union Carbide which led to leakage of poisonous gas;

(c) if so, the complete details thereof; and

(d) steps taken by Government to end the case earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) and (d) The criminal case against the Union Carbide India Limited and 11 others was committed to the Court of Sessions Judge, Bhopal on 16.7.88. The defence went in appeal against the charges framed and matter was finally disposed of by the Supreme Court on 13.9.96. In pursuance of Supreme Court order, the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal framed the charges on 29.8.97. The case is now pending at the stage of prosecution evidence. Till date 101 prosecution witnesses have been examined. The next date for prosecution evidence is scheduled on 16/17-9-2003. With regard to extradition request in respect of Warren Anderson, the Government of India has forwarded the extradition request through Embassy of India, Washington, to the US Department of State and US Department of Justice.

(b) According to the Government of Madhya Pradesh, it does not have any such information from any authentic source.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question does not arise.

**Assam Gas cracker project**

3195. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) details of developments made, in chronological order, on Assam Gas Cracker Project from the time of conceptualization, laying of foundation stone, year-wise progress, present status and target fixed;

(b) details of original commitments made by oil companies, basis of availability of gas resources, details of deviations made by oil companies on their commitments, solution found out, likely time of arriving at a final decision on this issue; and

(c) list of public commitments made by Prime Minister and Petroleum Minister from time to time on this issue till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH): (a) to (c) A Letter of Intent was issued to the Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) on 25.1.1991 to set up a petrochemical Gas Cracker Complex with a capacity of 3 lakh tonnes per annum (TPA) Ethylene in the joint sector.