

Task force on chemical industry

†4360. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the report of Task Force on Chemical Industry is still under Government's consideration;
- (b) if so, the details of recommendations accepted by Government on *ad-hoc* basis for implementation; and
- (c) by when the accepted recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) The entire report of the Task Force on the Chemical Industry, under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. S. Ganguly (Chairman ICI India), has been accepted by the Government to serve as a guidance document. Issues relating to infrastructure and the regulatory mechanism are being pursued through inter-action with the concerned agencies/departments of the Government.

Exemption to life saving drugs from Excise and Custom duties

4361. SHRI YADLAPATIVENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any action is being taken by Government to exempt all "life saving drugs" from excise and custom duties;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of drug industries to such decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government have exempted from custom duty all the drugs appearing in List 4 of Customs Notification No. 21/2002 dated 1-3-2002. These drugs have also been exempted from excise duty vide Excise Notification No. 6/2003 dated 1-3-2003.

Consumption of Synthetic detergent, chemicals and fertilizers

4362. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of production and consumption of elastomers and synthetic Detergents in the last three years;
- (b) whether consumption is more than the quantity of production;
- (c) if so, whether any action is taken to increase the production to match with consumption;

†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of production and consumption of elastomers during the last 3 years are as follows:—

Year	Elastomers	
	Production MT	Consumption MT
1999-	71538	164788
2000	77526	163465
2000-2001	79372	176117

Data of production and consumption in respect of Synthetic Detergents is not being separately maintained.

(c) to (e) The Elastomers and Detergent Industry is delicensed. The setting up of such projects depends on the techno economic feasibility.

Prices of Becosules and Corax

4363. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
 SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that medicines Becosules and Corax are the number one and number two products in the Indian Pharmaceutical market; and
 (b) whether the prices for these two products have been approved, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHHATTRA PAL SINGH): (a) As per "Monthly Retail Pharma Audit Report" of M/s. ORG-MARG for the month of December, 2002, the two medicines, namely, Becosules and Corax occupy the top two ranks (sale value wise) among the products marketed in trade channel.