

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.