

second unit in December, 1996. A period of about 6 months is needed between criticality and commercial operation of each unit.

(d) The estimated capital cost excluding interest during construction is provisionally fixed at about Rs. 1600 crores.

#### **Import of Coal for Steel Plants**

9168. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state the quantity of coal imported for the steel plants and the foreign exchange involved therein after handing over of coal washers to the BCCL from the SAIL?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMGOUDA): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Indo-Ussr Bio-technology products manufacturing Programmes**

9169. SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal for concurrence of the Centre on the scheme called "Indo-USSR Bio-Technology Products Manufacturing Programmes; and

(b) if so the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) a proposal for the establishment of Advance Centre for Resistance Breeding of Crop Plants through Biotechnology, from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, duly forwarded through the State Government of Karnataka is under

consideration of this Department.

[Translation]

#### **Manufacture of Life Saving Drugs**

9170. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacture of the Pencilline has been suspended this year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether more costly and profit making medicines, such as ampicilline, amoxicilline etc. are being preferably manufactured in public /private sector; and,

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial steps proposed to be taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHIATA MOHAN): (a) and (b). Except for one unit which has suspended production on the grounds of economic unviability, all other units continue to produce Pencillin.

(c) and (d). Manufacture of Ampicillin Amoxycillin etc. is based on their market demand.

#### **Central Consumer Co-operative Stores in States**

9171. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have established Central Consumer Cooperative Stores for the benefit of its employees working in various States;

(b) if so, the locations of such stores in