

### Dyestuffs

7040. **Shri Parthasarathy:** Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of dyestuffs is sufficient to meet the demand in the country;

(b) whether the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. is producing all the basic and intermediate materials required by the drugs, dyestuffs and chemical industries; and

(c) if not, when this undertaking will start production of these materials?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Raghuramaiah):** (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) The Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. are expected to start initial trial production in the latter half of 1969, but according to their production programme they will be producing a limited range comprising of the more important high tonnage intermediates required by the Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, Dyestuff and pesticide and other chemical industries.

### Caustic Soda

7041. **Shri Parthasarathy:** Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of caustic soda in the country is sufficient and satisfactory;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating some exports; and

(c) the quantity of mercury required by the caustic soda industry which is being imported at present?

**The Minister of state in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and**

**of Planning and Social Welfare (Shri Raghuramaiah):** (a) The country has just reached the stage of self-sufficiency in caustic soda production.

(b) Yes. The Joint Committee for the Alkali Industry recently constituted by Government to go into certain matters relating to caustic soda and soda ash industries has, *inter alia*, been requested to formulate a suitable export scheme particularly for caustic soda and chlorine products.

(c) Seventy five tonnes of mercury is presently imported for maintenance of the existing units.

### Floating of Agricultural Finance Corporation by Commercial Banks

7042. **Shri Marandi:**  
**Shri R. Barua:**  
**Shri P. N. Solanki:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commercial banks have sent their proposal to the Central Government for their willingness to float an agricultural finance corporation to take up credit facilities to farmers;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the broad features thereof; and

(d) when it is likely to be implemented?

**The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai):**

(a) It is understood that the commercial banks have such a proposal under consideration but no formal proposal has so far been received either by the Government or by the Reserve Bank.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of the reply to (a).