

Advisory council on Public Distribution System (PDS) held on 27th July, 1992, almost all the States expressed the view that the benefits of PDS should be made available only to the needy and deserving sections of the population and requested a National Policy be evolved. The state Governments asked for increase in the allocations of SKO; raising the levy sugar margins to retailers resulting in increase in consumer price from Rs. 6.90 to 7.00 per kg; and rounding off the end retail prices of PDS items to the nearest five paise in future to avoid inconvenience to consumers.

As per the present policy of the Government, an area specific approach has been initiated to improve availability and accessibility of PDS Commodities to the population living in Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme, certain Designated Hill Areas and Integrated Tribal Development Programme in the country. More than 1700 blocks have been identified for implementation of the revamped PDS.

Consumer Cooperatives Stores in Punjab

5452. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up Central Consumer Cooperative Stores in Punjab for the benefit of its employees working in Punjab; and

(b) If so, the details and locations of such stores in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pricing Policy of Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur

5453. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received representations from Unions and Officers' Association of Messers Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur for review of the pricing policy of their product- Flint Button;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to the present pricing policy the loss of the company is mounting; and

(d) whether the Government propose to allow the company to enhance the present sales prices of its product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISE) (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). Government have received a representation from Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited Officers' and Senior Supervisors' Association for reviewing the policy of prices of flint buttons

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Prices are fixed by the company itself and BOGL has last revised the prices of Flint Buttons with effect from 9.7.92.

Closed Industrial Units in Tamil Nadu

5454. DR. (SHRIMATI) K. S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the Industrial units lying closed in Tamil Nadu;

(b) since when these are lying closed and the reasons therefore;

(c) the efforts made to revive these industrial units and the results achieved so far; and

(d) the number of employees and labourers rendered unemployed due to the closure of these units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Production Contract with Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited

5455. SHRI N. J. RATHVA:
SHRI V. S. VIJAYAR-
AGHAVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed by Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited and the Government of India in the matter of target production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the production made by H.O.C.L. during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the company has formulated a scheme to increase its production capacity during the Eighth Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b): A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed on 23.6.1992 by Chairman and Managing Director, Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL), Rasayani and Secretary, Deptt. of Chemicals and Petrochemicals setting out the targets of production, sales etc. to be achieved by HOCL during 1992-93.

The estimated production during 1992-93 is 2,55,196 MT. Various targets to qualify for excellent to poor gradings are given below:-

<i>Production (M. T.)</i>	<i>Grading</i>
2,67,960	Excellent
2,55,200	Very Good
2,42,440	Good
2,29,680	Average
2,16,920	Poor

(c) Total production achieved by HOCL during last three years has been as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Production (MT)</i>
1989-90	2,06,383
1990-91	2,10,935
1991-92	2,20,626

(d) and (e). During Eighth Five Year Plan, HOCL envisages expansion of existing plants and setting up of new plants at an estimated cost of Rs. 565 crores and thereby the company is likely to increase its production to 4,56,990 MT.