

(c) whether these units are free to charge any price from the consumers which happens to be higher than the notified prices;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to check the rising prices of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d). Under DPCO, 1987, SSI units are exempt from price control in respect of Category II formulations.

(e) The prices of price controlled medicines are fixed/revised in accordance with the provision contained in DPCO, 1987. In respect of price decontrolled medicines, Government keeps constant watch on their prices.

[Translation]

Closure of Certain Fertilizer Units

6601. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI JAGMIT SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:
SHRI A. CHARLES:
DR, LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state:

(a) whether due to heavy cut in subsidy fertilizer, a large number of fertilizer manufacturing units are likely to be closed down;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, out of about 135 fertilizer manufacturing units, 24 units manufacturing Single Superphosphate (SSP) in small and medium sector are reported to have temporarily stopped producing SSP mainly due to some delay in revision of subsidy taking into account cost escalations arising out of increase in the cost of imported raw materials. Some of these units out of 24, however, continued to manufacture sulphuric acid. All efforts are being made to revise the subsidy on account of cost escalations expeditiously.

[English]

Nuclear power Plant for Kerala and Kamataka

6602. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of Chemical Research, Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Centre., Kalpakkam has pointed out that there is need for nuclear power generation for States like Kerala and Kamataka whose increasing power needs could not be met by hydel generation alone;

(b) whether it has been pointed out that these States had now become power starved due to lean monsoon;

(c) whether it has also been pointed out that nuclear power generation would be cheaper compared to thermal power;

(d) if so, whether the Government have considered the view of the expert; and