

and to take appropriate action, if any of the particulars given in the claim are found to be incorrect.

(c) No, Sir.

Procurement and Supply of Essential Commodities

2150. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the high rise in prices of all essential commodities and their scarcity and non-availability, there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to procure them and supply for States for distribution through fair price shops at subsidized and uniform rate as it is done in case of steel and sugar while it is exported abroad; and

(b) if not, what is the reason and what is the alternative scheme of procurement and distribution for the removal of hardship of mass of people of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The concept of procurement and distribution of certain items of essential commodities has been accepted by the Government since long. The Public Distribution System is under constant review by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government and Central Ministries concerned with the procurement and supply of essential commodities. As a result, food-grains such as wheat and rice are procured from the surplus States for being supplied to the deficit States at uniform issue prices. Edible oils are being imported to tide over internal shortages and are supplied to the States for distribution through the outlets of the Public Distribution System. Arrangements have also been made under the dual price policy for the supply of levy sugar to all the States in the country. Arrangements have also been made for

supply of kerosene and soft coke through the Public Distribution System. While sugar is being supplied through the Public Distribution System at an uniform price of Rs. 2.85 per kg., rice, wheat, edible oil, kerosene and soft coke are supplied through the Public Distribution System at central issue prices plus some local incidental charges. Arrangements have also been made for supply of tea, coffee, toilet soap, match boxes and exercise books through the Public Distribution System and many States have taken benefit of these arrangements.

(b) Question does not arise.

राउरकेला इस्पात कारखाना/संयंत्र द्वारा बहुत अधिक कीमत पर ट्रेनियन रिग की खरीद

2151 श्री रघु प्रताप बाडगंगा : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय जांच ब्यूरो ने राउरकेला इस्पात कारखाना संयंत्र द्वारा बहुत अधिक कीमत पर ट्रेनियन रिग खरीदे जाने के संबंध में जांच पड़ताल करने के लिये उनके मंत्रालय से स्वीकृति मांगी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह स्वीकृति कब प्रदान की गयी और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है ;

(ग) क्या सेल के उच्च अधिकारी और एक उच्च राजनैतिक नेता इस मामले में सम्मिलित हैं ; और

(घ) इस बारे में स्वीकृति कब तक प्रदान कर दी जायेगी?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूति और
इस्वात तथा खान मंत्रो (श्री प्रणव
मुकर्जी): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख), (ग) और (घ) प्रश्न नहीं
उठते।

**Alternative arrangements for drug
units to import L-Base**

2152. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR
SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COM-
MERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be
pleased to state:

(a) what are the alternative ar-
rangements made by the Government
which are available to the drug units
who wish to import L-Base themselves
through their own import licences in-
stead of canalising agency, the State
Chemical & Pharmaceutical Corpora-
tion Ltd.; and

(b) whether the price fixed by the
Government for Chloramphenicol
under DPCO 1979 assures them rea-
sonable margin against their imports,
and if so, what are the details of the
same and if not, then what steps have
Government taken besides the arrange-
ment with the canalising authority?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL
AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB
MUKHERJEE) (a) Import of 'L-Base'
is not canalised. This item is included
in the list of Restricted items in the
Import Policy 1979-80. Actual Users
(Industrial) can, therefore, obtain
direct licences in accordance with the
policy.

(b) The pooled price of Cholram-
phenicol powder is Rs. 460/- per Kg.
This price has been fixed taking into
account the price of L-base at
Rs. 475/- per Kg. and includes a reason-
able margin for the converters of L-
base into chloramphenicol. A scheme
has also been introduced under which
Actual Users holding valid import
licences for L-base can also surrender
them to the State Chemical & Phar-
maceutical Corporation to obtain L-

Base there against at the price of Rs.
475/- per Kg. Such Actual Users have
to sell chloramphenicol powder at Rs.
460/- per Kg. against allocation orders
issued by the State Chemical and
Pharmaceutical Corporation.

**Availability of Phosphate at Jhabua,
Madhya Pradesh**

2153. SHRI DILIP SINGH
BHURIA: Will the Minister of STEEL
AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the available quantity of phos-
phate at Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh
State since 1975 to-date;

(b) the quantity of phosphate des-
patched so far to other States since
1975 to-date;

(c) whether Government have any
proposal under consideration to set up
a super phosphate industry on the
basis of raw material available in
Jhabua; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the
reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL
AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB
MUKHERJEE): (a) The Geological
Survey of India has reported a deposit
of about 4.35 million tonnes of rock
phosphate having 28 per cent phos-
phorous pentoxide at Jhabua in
Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Approx. 1.31 lakh tonnes of
Jhabua rock phosphate has been des-
patched to various States (other than
Madhya Pradesh) from 1975 to 1978.

(c) and (d) A letter of intent was
issued to M/s. M. P. Agro Morarji
Fertilizers Limited (a Joint Sector
Project) in early 1978 for the manu-
facture of 1,40,000 tonnes per annum
of sulphuric acid and 50,000 tonnes per
annum of phosphoric acid and 93,000
tonnes of Mono Ammonium Phosphate
at Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh.

Applications from some parties have
also been received for a Single Super-
phosphate Plant in the State of Madhya
Pradesh, which are presently under