

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

the consideration of the Government of India. Some of these applicants may use rock phosphate available at Jhabua in case industrial licences are granted to them.

Availability of Essential Commodities in Assam

2154. SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the immediate measures so far adopted/proposed to be adopted to make available essential commodities in Assam particularly for salt, rice, Kerosene oil, sugar and the steps so far taken to introduce a proper public Distribution System in Assam; and

(b) what is the quantity of levy sugar allotted to Assam and quantity allotted and distributed in Cachar District in January and February, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Since difficulties have been faced in movement of essential commodities to Assam by railways, a committee of officials has been constituted to review and monitor the movement of essential commodities to Assam.

Salt quota has been allotted to Assam from various sources as demanded by the Assam State Cooperative Marketing and Consumers' Federation Ltd.. The sole nominee of Assam Government for import of salt into the State. It is proposed to move salt in block rakes within the next four to six weeks to make salt available in adequate quantities.

For the month of March, 1980, 20,000 tonnes of wheat and 30,000 tonnes of rice were allotted to Assam for public distribution. Efforts are being made by railways to step up the movement of foodgrains to Assam and other north-eastern States to about 3,500 tonnes per day (one lakh tonnes per

month). During the period from 18th March to 21st March, 1980 average daily loading to these States has already picked upto 3000 tonnes.

For the period 17th December, 1979 and 31st March, 1980, Assam has been allotted 24,300 tonnes of levy sugar. By 20th March, 1980, 10,841 tonnes of levy sugar had been moved to Assam. Further despatches are in progress.

State Government has reported that during the past few months there was acute shortage of kerosene owing to closure of Digboi and Gauhati refineries. The position has now improved after commencement of production in the refineries.

According to the State Government, the entire State of Assam has been covered by the public distribution system comprising cooperatives with their retail outlets in rural areas and fair price shops and cooperatives in urban areas.

(b) Allotment of levy sugar to Assam in January and February, 1980 was 7,541 tonnes per month. According to the information made available by the State Government, allotment of levy sugar to Cachar District in January and February, 1980 was 835.4 tonnes per month.

Amount spent on AIR Journey by L.I.C. Officers

2155. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the L.I.C. Class I Officers Federation has presented a Memorandum dated 14th January, 1980 highlighting the anomalies in the pay scales, D.A., and other allowances of Class I and Class III employees;

(b) whether it is a fact that Class I employees have demanded that they may be demoted;