

its headquarters at Sindi and NFL, HFC and FCI with their headquarters at Delhi. The headquarters of the latter three Companies continue to be in Delhi.

**Increase in price of Life Saving Drugs**

1046. SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA:  
SHRI K. MALLANNA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the prices of drugs, including the life-saving ones are increasing day by day since January, 1980;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the manufacturers of the drugs are demanding a price rise; if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring down the prices of the essential drugs; and

(d) the proposals taken by Government to supply the essential drugs to the common people at a subsidised rate?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Government have not allowed any increases in the prices of price-controlled drugs including life-saving ones after March 1978. However, it is possible that price increases might have taken place in the following cases:

(i) formulations outside the scope of price control which are of a non-essential nature.

(ii) formulations manufactured by the small scale units having an annual turn-over not exceeding Rs. 50 lakhs, since such units are outside price control subject to their following leader prices for Categories I and II products.

(b) Yes, Sir. Drug manufacturers have individually as well as through

their Associations, voiced their demand for increase in the prices of bulk drugs and formulations consequent upon escalation in input cost, particularly after the increase in the prices of petroleum products from August 1979. Any price revision where deserved, can be possible only after the procedure and principles based on which such price revision can be granted are finalised, which will take some more time.

(c) The steps taken by Government to reduce the prices of drugs including essential drugs include:

(i) reductions consequent upon changes of duties and levies on certain drugs under the 1978-79 and 1979-80 Budgets;

(ii) reductions in formulation prices where decision to reduce the prices of the related bulk drugs had been taken before March, 1978.

(iii) reduction in formulation prices (where imported bulk drugs are used) consequent upon changes in the prices of bulk drugs in the international market.

The cost studies of price-controlled bulk drugs including those for which declared prices are at present prevailing have been taken in hand. These are likely to result both in increases as well as reductions in the prices of bulk drugs and the connected formulations.

(d) Apart from the facilities provided under various National Health Programmes like National Malaria Eradication Programme, National Leprosy Eradication Programme, etc. and the health coverage provided by the State Governments there is no other specific proposal for the supply of essential drugs to the common people at subsidised rates. However, a few canalised bulk drugs like Chloramphenicol powder, Dapsone, Streptomycin are being supplied to actual user manufacturers through CPC at subsidised prices because in these cases, while the landed cost of imports has gone up,

the formulation prices continue to be pegged at the levels fixed before March 1978.

**Production of Super Phosphate by Fertilizer Corporation of India Unit at Haldia**

1047. SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to extend F.C.I. Unit at Haldia for producing Super Phosphate; if so, details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). There is at present no proposal under consideration for expansion of the fertilizer project at Haldia, which is owned by the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited. The existing project is yet to be commissioned on account of non-availability of power.

**New Oil Bearing Structure at South of Bombay**

1048. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new oil bearing structure has been found at South of Bombay;

(b) if so, whether production potential of the region has been assessed; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. A new oil bearing structure named R-7, about 120 Kms. South-West of Bombay City was discovered in May 1980.

(b) No, Sir. The assessment has yet to be done.

(c) Does not arise.

**Independent Body to decide Election Petitions**

1049. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of Law, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion for setting up an independent body to decide election petitions quickly was made by the Chief Election Commissioner; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

The MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) Though the Chief Election Commissioner has informally expressed such a view, no such suggestion has been made formally by him.

(b) Does not arise.

**Sale of Molasses**

1050. SHRI CHANDRA DEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sometimes the States Governments offer molasses to public through "free sale" or public auction, etc.;

(b) if so, details of restrictions, if any, imposed by the Central Government on inter-State movement of such molasses;

(c) if reply to (b) is in the negative, whether the Central Government have any objection to free inter-State movement of such molasses by respective purchases; and

(d) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Under the Molasses Control Order, 1961 issued by the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in March, 1961 as amended from time