

**Short Supply of Pilocarpins**

866. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether pilocarpins an eye-sight saving drug is in short supply in the country since December, 1992;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure regular and adequate supply of this drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT. (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The availability of pilocarpine eye drops had got dislocated in the early part of 1993 on account of some difficulties in the customs clearance of imported bulk drug. These were sorted out and there is no reported shortage now how.

[English]

**Substitute for Petrol**

867. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRIMATI KRISHNANDERA  
KAUR (DEEPA):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a chemical extracted from the 'Congress grass' and 'Jal khumbi' weeds with the help of bio-technology can become a real substitute for petrol:

(b) whether any tests have been carried out in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the follow-up action thereon, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) Although theoretically possible, production of a liquid fuel from Jal khumbi, which has 95 percent water, and congress grass, which is seasonal and highly diffused in nature, is not likely to be technoeconomically feasible is substitute for petrol in the near future. However, alcohol, as substitutes for petrol and diesel, can be produced in large quantities from sugar cane and natural gas and is a preferable route being adopted by the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources.

(b) to (d). The research projects, funded by the Deptt. of Bio-Technology on microbial production of 2-3 butanediol from Jal Khumbi, has yielded 15 grams of 2-3 butanediol per 100 gram of deliquified weeds. The results are still at the laboratory research stage.

**Smuggling Activities in Western Coast**

868. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:  
SHRIMATI SHEELA  
GAUTAM:  
SHRI MUMTAZ ANZARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Navy have launched a joint-security-action plan with Coast Guard

to check the smuggling activities at Western Coast recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above action has proved successful; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Details cannot be divulged at this stage in the interest of operations.

**Closure of Public Sector Undertakings**

869. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of public sector units both in the Central and State Sectors which are closed /proposed to be closed down;

(b) the accumulated loss suffered by each of these public sector units as on date;

(c) the measures taken to revive these units; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to re-settle the affected employees of these public sector units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHAN SAHI): (a) No Central public Sector Enterprise has been closed so far. However, BIFR have recommended closure of following 3 public Sector Enterprises based on their performance upto March, 1993 which are sick public Sector Enterprises and referred to BIFR;

(1) Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.

(2) National Bicycle Cooperation of India Ltd.

(3) Weigh bird India Ltd.

(b). The accumulated loss suffered by these Public Sector Enterprises as on 31.3.92 is given below:-

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the PSE</i>	<i>(Rs. in lakhs) Accumulated losses upto 31.3.1992</i>
1.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.	15562
2.	National Bicycle Corpn. of India Ltd.	7950.
3.	Weighbird India Ltd.	969

[Translation]

(c) Do not arise.

**Facilities to Plastic Industry**

(d) The claims of the employees will be settled as per laws applicable.

871. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:  
SHRIMATI BHAVANA  
CHIKHAI A.