

and to advise the Government on the changes in the Administrative and organisational set-up in view of its recommendations. The need for passing proper "Speaking orders" in adjudication or appeal cases has been impressed upon Collectors and Appellate Collectors of Customs and Central Excise in the light of the points advanced in the representation. The sender of the representation has also been informed of the action taken.

#### Indian equity participation by multinational drug houses

2448. SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of multi-national drug houses which have not increased the Indian equity participation in accordance with FERA Rule;

(b) the reasons for not taking action against such houses; and

(c) particulars of any firm and clear cut plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) At present there are 32 drug companies subject to the provisions of Section 29(2) (a) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973. Decision on the applications of these companies under FERA will be taken after the revised drug policy based on the Hathi Committee Report is finalised.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Import of Potash

2449. SHRI M. A. HANNAN AL-HAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether we import 'Potash' and if so, the quantity imported during the last three years;

(b) how much foreign exchange we spent for the import of 'POTASH' during the last three years; year-wise; and

(c) the reasons and circumstances under which we are not able to produce 'POTASH' and steps Government propose to take to produce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) and (b). The term 'Potash' is variously used to connote a number of items, but in more commonly, it refers to Caustic Potash and Muriate of Potash.

A statement showing the quantity and value of import of Potassium Hydroxide (Caustic Potash) Potassium Chloride, Potassium Chlorate, Potassium Sulphate and other Potassic fertilizers/materials during the years 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77 is enclosed.

(c) Imports had to be made recently of Caustic Potash to meet the urgent needs of Indigo manufacturers. Production statistics show that the supply situation is gradually improving. Besides, a number of schemes have also been approved to take care of prospective demands.

As regards Muriate of Potash the only indigenous source is the bittern left after recovery of salt from sea water. The cost of production of Potassium Chloride from bittern is much higher than the landed cost of imported product. The technology developed has also not been tried at commercial level. However, recovery of potash as double sulphate, which may be used as fertilizer, has been estimated to be of better feasibility and a few parties including public sector Hindustan Salt Works are considering this project. The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has set up a Committee to identify the areas suitable for recovery and the incentives required.

## Statement

Quantity and value of import of Potassium Hydroxide (Caustic Potash), Potassium Chloride, Potassium Chlorate, Potassium Sulphate and other Potassic fertilizers/materials during the years 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77

Sl. No.	Description of item	Revised Indian Trade Classification's Code No.	Unit of Qty.	1974-75			1975-76			1976-77		
				Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
1	Potassium hydroxide (Caustic potash)	513.6901	Thousand Kgs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	926	44.51	
2	Potassium chlorate	514.1402	Thousand Kgs.	408	21.32	445	35.93	..	..	..	..	..
3	Potassium chloride, pure	561.9001	Thousand Tonnes	153	1225.63	22	231.32	87	726.99	..	..	..
4	Potassium chloride, commercial	561.9002	Thousand Tonnes	318	2273.91	211	1668.64	284	1442.30	..	..	..
5	Potassium sulphate containing not more than 52% of weight of K <sub>2</sub> O	561.9003	Thousand Tonnes	10	120.56	nrq	0.07	1	18.98	..	..	..
6	Other Potassic fertilizers and Potassic fertilizer materials (other than crude natural potassic salts)	561.9009	Thousand Tonnes	70	604.36	53	549.25	113	921.33	..	..	..

NOTE 1.—Figures are provisional and subject to revision.