

**Shortage of Insulin (life-saving drug)**

3178. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:**  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM,  
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of some type of insulin, one of the life-saving drugs, in West Bengal, which is causing immense hardship to the diabetic patients;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking urgent steps to improve the situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):**

(a) to (c). The reports furnished by the Director of Drug Control Administration, West Bengal for the period April to June, 1978 did not indicate any shortages of Insulin. However, in response to a specific enquiry from the Deptt. of Chemicals and Fertilizers recently, the Director of Drug Control Administration, West Bengal has reported a marginal shortage of Insulin Lente in West Bengal.

Immediately after the matter come to the notice of the Government, the matter was also taken up with M/s. Boots Co. (India) Ltd. The company have reported that between January to June 1978 they supplied 69,334 vials of Insulin as against 54,475 vials during the same period in the year 1977. These supplies include supplies of 11,915 vials of Insulin Lente 40x10 ml during January to June 1978 as against the supplies of 12,528 vials during the same period in 1977. The company have also reported that that in view of the reported shortages they are further augmenting the supplies to West Bengal. In view of the short-fall in the supply of Insulin Lente they have been asked to augment the supplies of Insulin Lente to West Bengal.

**Fertiliser Plant at Talcher and Paradeep**

3180. **SHRI GANANATH PRADHAN:**

**SHRI PADMACHARAN SAMANTASINHERA:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the period by which the fertilizer plant at Talcher, Orissa would go into production;

(b) what is the total quantity of fertilizers to be produced annually by that unit;

(c) the original estimate and up-to-date revised estimate;

(d) whether there is any proposal for setting up a fertilizer plant at Paradeep, Orissa; and

(e) if so, the details of the proposal?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):**

(a) to (c). The Talcher Fertilizer plant designed to produce 4,95,000 tonnes per annum of urea is expected to go into trial production in early 1979. The initial indicative estimate of the cost of the project was Rs. 70.49 crores and the revised cost estimate is Rs. 184.76 crores.

(d) and (e). There is a proposal to set up a phosphatic fertilizer plant at Paradeep for which a preliminary feasibility report has been prepared envisaging the manufacture of 3 lakhs tonnes of P205 in the form of complex fertilizers.

**Demand for Wagons for movement of Grains, Coal etc.**

3181. **SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:**  
**SHRI S. R. DAMANI:**

**SHRI GANGA BHAKT SINGH:**

**SHRI RAM SEWAK HAZARI:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that there is a great demand for Railway wagons for the movement of grains, fertilizers, coal etc;

(b) if yes, why Government has not been able to meet the demands;

(c) what is the total shortage of wagons in India; and

(d) what is the proposal of the Government to meet the situation?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN):** (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). By and large, Railways have been able to meet the demands of essential traffic. Cases of shortage in wagon supply are dealt with promptly and all possible remedial action taken. To augment loading, efforts are being made by the Railways to improve wagon availability, which includes procurement of additional wagons, production of new locomotives and organising closed circuit movements for bulk consumers.

#### **Shortage and distribution of L.P.G.**

**3182. SHRI S. R. DAMANI:** Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state;

(a) what are the reasons for the prevailing shortage of LPG cooking gas in many towns;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that customers have to wait for weeks to get replacement; and for new connections premium is charged; and

(c) what steps have been taken to increase production of LPG and for its even distribution throughout the country and also to check the malpractices by distributors?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):**

(a) to (c). While availability of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (cooking gas) in the country is adequate to take care of the cylinder refill requirements of the existing customers, there is considerable unsatisfied demand for the product in view of heavy pending lists for new gas connections with the dealers of the oil companies.

Temporary shortages of LPG occur at times when availability is affected by factors such as shortfall in production at refineries due to unforeseen reasons or certain other logistic problems. In such cases, best possible efforts are made to reduce the hardships to the consumers by moving the product from alternate sources, if available.

There are already instructions to the effect that the oil companies should ensure cooking gas refill supplies within 24 hours of booking. This schedule is generally followed except in cases of temporary problems of availability.

New gas connections are released by the oil companies from amongst those borne on the waiting lists on a "first-come, first-served" basis. No specific case regarding premium being charged for new gas connections has come to the notice of the Complaints Cell of the Ministry.

The availability of cooking gas is expected to improve by 1980 by the commissioning of:

(i) facilities for separation of cooking gas from the Bombay High Associated Gas;

(ii) the Mathura Refinery;

(iii) the coker unit of Bongaigaon Refinery; and

(iv) the secondary processing facilities at Koyali Refinery.

With the large-scale availability of LPG as mentioned above, it will be possible to grant new gas connections on a significant scale from 1980 onwards.