

Additional Price Charge by S.C. P.C. for Chloramphenicol I.P.

3951. SHRI CHANDRA BHAL MANI TIWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have authorised the State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Limited to collect additional Rs. 162/- per kg. on old allocation orders issued for Chloramphenicol I.P.;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the national exchequer would be deprived of Rs. 6.48 per kg. on account of sales tax on the supplies allocated through indigenous manufacturers; and

(c) what is the total amount the national exchequer would be deprived of and the steps taken by Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The prices of price-controlled drugs are fixed by the Government under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979. The prices charged by State Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Ltd. are those and are approved by the Government from time to time and are subject to the conditions mentioned in the allocation orders. The pooled price has been revised from Rs. 460/- to Rs. 622/- per kg. with effect from 7-10-1980.

(b) The prices approved by the Government from time to time are exclusive of sales-tax and other local taxes. Therefore, the question of any loss to the exchequer on account of sales tax does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal to Construct two more Units of Bhatinda Thermal Plant in Punjab

3952. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration the proposals for the construction of two more units of the Bhatinda Thermal Plant in Punjab;

(b) if so, their capacity and capital outlay involved and the amount which the Central Government will make available for the purpose; and

(c) how long will it take to clear the plan and commission the new units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). The Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB) submitted a feasibility report for Stage III installation of two additional units of 210 MW each at Gurunanak Dev Thermal Power Station at Bhatinda in September, 1976 and a revised project report in December 1978. As per the revised project report, the capital cost of the project was estimated as Rs. 150.43 crores. Subsequently, PSEB desired to give a higher priority to Ropar Thermal Power Station Stage-I. Accordingly, the Ropar TPS St.-I was techno-economically cleared by the CEA and approved by the Planning Commission. The coal linkage for the Bhatinda Stage-III Scheme has to be re-established as the linkage made for it earlier was made over to the Ropar TPS Stage-I. Bhatinda Stage-III Scheme could be considered for clearance along with other options in the appropriate time frame, when the feasibility of installation of additional thermal capacity in Punjab is established.