

(c) whether the companies are piqued over Government's refusal to raise the prices of such drugs;

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to protect the interest of the consumers; and

(e) what percentage of profit the drug manufacturers are enjoying at present on such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) to (e). My Ministry has not received any report of suspension of production of Vitamin based medicines by any major drug manufacturer;

Prices of some such medicines (formulations) have been revised. While fixing such prices, element of profit for the concerned drug manufacturer *inter alia* is taken into account as part of the mark up for formulation prices as provided under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1979.

Sites for Six Gas-Based Fertiliser Plants

2754. **SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up six fertilizer plants based on the supply of gas from Bombay High;

(b) if so, the States where such plants will be located;

(c) whether a final decision regarding location and outlay for each has been taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and when the projects will commence?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FER-
2736 LS—11

TILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One plant will be located in Madhya Pradesh, one plant in Rajasthan and four plants in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Co-operation between India and France in Petro-Chemical Development

2755. **SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a memorandum of understanding has been signed for better co-operation between India and France in the sphere of petro-chemical development in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what would be the new spheres where French co-operation will be available and the details of the projects that will be taken up under this co-operation scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). An IFP Team from France visited India from 25th October, 1981 to 31st October, 1981 and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between IFP and Engineers India Limited on 31st October, 1981. Specific subjects and areas for possible cooperation between Indian Public Sector Organisations and IFP would be identified. Such subjects and areas include petrochemicals also.

As per the Memorandum of Understanding the future interest could be in the following:—

— Exchange of personnel in Research & Development