

Foreign interests in Fertilizers and Drug Industries

1281. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the latest position with regard to foreign economic interests in India in Industries, firms and concerns connected with fertilizers and drugs?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): The extent of interest of foreign companies in drug units operating in India is indicated in Annexure IV and V to Chapter V of the Report of Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the Sabha on 8th May 1975

The extent of foreign financial participation in the fertilizer industry has been indicated in the statement laid on the Table of the Sabha in reply to Starred Question No. 204 on 20-1-1976.

Electrification of Vijayawada-Madras Line

1282. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) at what stage is the electrification work of Vijayawada-Madras line

(b) will it be completed by March, 1976 as scheduled; and

(c) whether the electrification work is being extended upto Kazipet (Madras-Delhi trunk route) and upto Waltair (Madras-Calcutta route) on the other side as requested by Andhra Pradesh Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Progress of electrification work on Vijayawada-Madras line, is 20 per cent upto December, 1975.

(b) No. It has been rescheduled for completion in 1978-79.

(c) No.

Savings in Fuel consumption due to Welded Rails (Allahabad Division)

1283. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether long welded rail-tracks in Allahabad Division have helped to save in fuel consumption; and

(b) in view of Allahabad Division's experience, whether Government intends to introduce the same system in rail-tracks all over the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Long welded rails reduce the tractive resistance and this helps to save fuel consumption to some extent.

(b) Yes. It is the intention to introduce long welded rails on Indian Railways progressively.

Import of Oil by India from O.P.E.C.

1284 SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of oil India had to import from O.P.E.C. in 1974-75 and 1976-76;

(b) what is the total amount Government had to pay in foreign Exchange; and

(c) how far has it affected the foreign exchange reserve?