

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) No such proposal to slash the prices of bulk drugs is pending with the Government, at present, where bulk drugs are being sold at much higher price than the notified rates.

Price studies with regard to bulk drugs is an on-going exercise. Prices notified are the maximum selling price. Cases of over-charging, whenever noticed are being dealt with under the provisions of the DPCO and the Essential Commodities Act.

The prices are reduced suo-moto by the Government whenever it comes to notice that the input costs have substantially decreased, for instance, whenever, customs duty rates on raw materials/intermediates are reduced, corresponding reduction in the price of the said bulk drug (final product) is also undertaken.

#### Damage of Crops Due to Gall Pest in Kerala

906. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala for the financial assistance to the farmers of Kuttanad region whose crops were damaged by the Gall Pest attack on paddy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Sir, the Government have not received any request from the Government of Kerala for financial assistance to the farmers of Kuttanad region whose crops were damaged by the Gall Pest attack on paddy. However, according to information given by the State Government, the affected farmers were assisted using the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund which is contributed by the Government of India to the extent of 75%. The State Government has released Rs. 2.00 crore for this purpose.

(c) Question does not arise, in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

[*Translation*]

#### Ammonia Plants in India

907. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Ammonia Plants in India are not sufficient keeping in view the demand thereof in the Country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether huge amount is expended for the import of Ammonia; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the production of Ammonia in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) Ammonia is an intermediate for manufacture of all nitrogenous fertilizers. All urea plants are constructed with dedicated ammonia facilities, since carbondioxide, which is a by-product of the ammonia plant, is required to make urea. Any surplus ammonia from such plants may be used for manufacture of NP/NPK fertilizers and various chemicals.

The ammonia production capacity in India is about 118 lakh tonnes per annum. The production of ammonia during 1996-97 was 102 lakh tonnes, of which about 94 lakh tonnes was used for manufacture of urea. About 8 lakh tonnes of indigenous ammonia was used for manufacture of DAP, NP/NPK fertilizers and Caprolactam. The imports of ammonia during 1995-96 were of the order of 9.2 lakh tonnes valued approximately at Rs. 700 crore.

(d) No licence is normally required for setting up of an ammonia plant and any entrepreneur can set up an ammonia plant subject to the locational policy. Two of the fertilizer companies, viz. Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) and Gujarat State Fertilizers Company Limited (GSFC) have taken up projects for production of 900 TPD and 1350 TPD of ammonia to substitute the imports of ammonia and replace obsolete captive capacities.

[*English*]

#### Export of Plant Species

908. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed any ban on export of plant species;

(b) if so, the names of such plants and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to include some other species of plants in this list; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the impact of this ban on the plants traders?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 53 plants, their portions and derivatives obtained from the wild are prohibited from export due to their endangered status in nature. However, the cultivated varieties of all these plants, plant portions and derivatives can be exported. The list of such plants is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) This Ministry has set up a Committee to review the list of plants which are prohibited for export and based on its recommendations some species may be added to or deleted from the list. Some exporters and their associations have represented that the ban on exports is adversely affecting their business, and the markets established abroad for Indian plant based products would be lost.

**Statement**

The export of Plants, plant portions and their derivatives and extracts obtained from the wild as under is prohibited:

1. Aconitum species
2. Atropa species
3. Aristolochia species
4. Angiopteris species
5. Arundinaria Jausarensia
6. Balanophora species
7. Colchicum luteum (Hirantutya)
8. Commiphora whightii
9. Coptis species
10. Drosera species
11. Gentiana kurroo (Kuru, Kutki)
12. Gloriosa superba
13. Gnetum species
14. Iphignia indica
15. Meconopsis betonicifolia
16. Nardostachys species (Jatamansi)
17. Osmunda species
18. Rhododendron species
19. Physochlaina praealta (Bjarbang)
20. Praltia serpumlia
21. Rheum emodi (Dolu)
22. Berberis aristat (Indian barberry; Rasvat)
23. Acorus species
24. Artemisia species
25. Coscinium fenestratum (Calumba wood)
26. Costus speciosas (Keu, Kust)
27. Didymocarpus pedicellata
28. Dolomiaea pedicellata
29. Ephedra species
30. Gynocardia odorata (Chaulmogri)
31. Hydrocarpus species
32. Hyoscymus niger (Broseword)
33. Strychnos potatorum (Nirmali)
34. Swertia chirata (Charayatah)
35. Urginea species
36. Beddomes cycad (Cycas beddomei)
37. Blue vanda (Vandaeoerulea)
38. Kuth (Saussurea lappa)
39. Ladies slipper orchid (Paphiopedilium species)
40. Pitcher plant (Nepenthes khasiana)
41. Red vanda (Renanthera imschootiana)
42. Rauvolifia serpentina (Sarpagandha)
43. Ceropogia species
44. Frerea indica (Shindal Mankundi)

45. *Podophyllum hexandrum* (emodi) (Indian Podophyllum)
46. Cyatheaceae species (Tree Ferns)
47. Cycadaceae species (Cycads)
48. *Dioscorea deltoidea* (Elephant's foot)
49. Euphorbia species (Euphorbias)
50. Orchidaceae species (Orchids)
51. *Pterocarpus santalinus* (Red Sanders)
52. *Taxus wallichiana* (Common yew or Birmi leaves)
53. *Aquilaria malaccensis* (Agarwood)

2. Plants and plant portions, derivatives and extracts (including value added herbal formulations) of the cultivated varieties of the species above will be allowed for export subject to production of a Certificate of Cultivation from Regional Deputy Director (Wildlife), or Chief Conservator of Forests or Divisional Forest Officers of the State concerned from where these plants and plant portions have been procured. However in respect of cultivated varieties of the species covered by Appendix I (S. No. 36 to 41 of Paragraph 2 above) and Appendix II (S. No. 42 to 53 of Paragraph 2 above) of CITES, a CITES Permit for export will also be required.

3. The export of value added herbal formulations made out of imported species of plants and plant portions as specified above will be allowed freely without any restriction subject for furnishing of an affidavit to the Customs authorities at the time of export that only the imported plant species as above has been used for the manufacture of value added herbal formulation being exported. In the event of affidavit providing to be false, on the basis of random sample tests, action would be initiated against the firm under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992.

4. Exports allowed only through the ports of Bombay, Calcutta, Cochin, Delhi, Madras, Tuticorin and Amritsar.

[Translation]

#### Vidarbha State

909. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Adivasi dominated and undeveloped States;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to form a new state in accordance with the demands;

(c) if not, whether the Government do not find any facts in the recommendations in regard to the formation of Vidarbha State made by Fajal Ali Commission in time of restructuring of States in 1956; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to form a separate State for the development of Vidarbha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) The Government's policy is to advance the principles of political, administrative and economic federalism, as a consequence of which the benefits of developments are expected to percolate down much faster to the hitherto underdeveloped regions of the country where from the demands for Statehood are emanating.

Article 371(2) of the Constitution of India provides, inter alia, that the President may by order made with respect to the State of Maharashtra provide for any special responsibility of the Governor for (a) the establishment of separate development boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra, (b) the equitable allocation of funds for developmental expenditure over the said areas, subject to the requirements of the State as a whole; and (c) an equitable arrangement providing adequate facilities for technical education and vocational training, and adequate opportunities for employment in services under the control of the State Government, in respect of all the said areas, subject to the requirements of the State as a whole. These development boards are now functioning.

#### Bhoj-wet Land Project

910. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the implementation of "Bhoj-wet land Project in Bhopal alongwith its total cost and the amount of expenditure incurred so far;

(b) the amount spent by the various departments during 1996-97 and 1997-98, separately and their achievements so far;

(c) whether any Japanese team has studied the achievements made under the project;