

and 12-monthly average for the subsequent months upto May, 1969 (the latest month for which the figures are available) are as follows :

Month	Index number	12-monthly average
September, 1968	218	215.33
October, 1968	219	215.50
November, 1968	214	215.33
December, 1968	208	214.83
January, 1969	207	213.75
February, 1969	205	212.75
March, 1969	207	212.25
April, 1969	208	211.75
May, 1969	210	211.58

(c) The question of further increase would arise only when the 12-monthly average of 225 is reached, which, as will be seen from (a) and (b) above, has not so far occurred.

Cost of Production of Fertilizers

1061. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :
SHRI HIMATSINGKA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for higher cost and prices of fertilizers in India as compared to other countries ; and

(b) whether any phased programme is being launched to bring the cost of production and retail prices within the country in level with those in advanced countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) it has not been possible to compare the cost of production in India with that in other countries as no information is available regarding the cost of production in other countries. As regards prices of fertilizers produced in India, they are higher than the prices of fertilizers in some other countries. The present higher prices are due to higher cost of production which in turn is the result of several factors such as higher cost of imported plant and machinery which includes freight charges and import duty; higher cost of imported raw materials like rock phos-

phate and sulphur which have also to bear freight charges, sizes of plants and technology hitherto in vogue and underworking of capacity in some cases due to various reasons such as power failure, maintenance problems, labour trouble etc.

(b) the manufactures are stated to be trying to reduce the cost of production by improving operations and increasing productivity.

Views Expressed by Deputy Prime Minister on Yoga (Naturopathy and Ayurvedic System of Medicines in May, 1969 at Jamnagar

1062. SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :
SHRI JAI SINGH :
SHRI HARDYAL DEVGUN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the views of the Deputy Prime Minister while addressing the three day seminar on Ayurveda, Naturopathy and Yoga in the last week of May, 1969 at Jamnagar ;

(b) the details of the suggestions made by him and the extent to which the same can be implemented ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to co-ordinate the three systems of medicines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) and (b). The text of the speech delivered by the former Deputy Prime Minister at the Seminar on Ayurveda, Nature Cure and Yoga, held at Jamnagar in May, 1969, is being obtained. The suggestions made in the speech will be examined after the text is received.

(c) An autonomous Central Council for Research in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy has been constituted to guide, develop and co-ordinate scientific research in the different aspects, fundamental and applied, of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic Systems of Medicine and Yoga Therapy. Naturopathy is dealt with separately.