

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Recently Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched five new schemes for providing benefits to the Other Backward Classes as under:

- (i) Scheme of Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls;
- (ii) Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships for OBC Students;
- (iii) Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarships for OBC Students;
- (iv) Scheme of Pre-Examination Coaching for OBC Students;
- (v) Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Welfare of OBCs.

(b) No Sir, all these schemes have been launched recently.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A National level Conference of States Secretaries incharge of Backward Classes welfare was held on 04-12-1998 to speed up the implementation of these schemes.

Revenue Earned by Fertiliser Industry

3836. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by the Union Government from the Fertilizer Industry during 1996-97, 1997-98 and till date;

(b) the total amount spent on various fertilizer schemes during the said period;

(c) the details of the policy formulated by the Government to encourage fertiliser industry during 1998-99; and

(d) the total value of the fertilizers produced till 31.10.98 as compared to the corresponding period of the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) There is no excise duty on the fertilizers. The details of the corporate tax paid by the fertilisers companies are not available in the Department.

(b) An amount of Rs. 6192.35 crore and Rs. 8617.93 crore was spent in 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively on various schemes, such as Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme, Scheme of Concessional Sale of Decontrolled P & K Fertilizers, Interest Concession Scheme, Import Substitution Incentive Scheme, etc.

(c) The following incentives are available for encouraging investment in fertilizer sector:—

- (i) Normally no industrial licence is required for setting up a fertilizer plant.
- (ii) Duty free import of capital goods for setting up of new plants/modernisation of existing units.
- (iii) Deemed export benefits to indigenous suppliers of capital goods to fertilizer projects provided such supplies are made under the procedure of international competitive bidding.
- (iv) Duty free import of fertilizer raw materials and intermediates.
- (v) Reasonable return on investment to the entrepreneurs under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme, at present applicable to urea.
- (vi) Concession on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers to promote the balanced use of nutrients.

(d) The production of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers during 1998-99 (till Oct '98) has been 59.08 LMT and 17.05 LMT, respectively as compared to 55.68 LMT and 17.00 LMT, during the corresponding period in 1997-98. Urea is sold at the statutory sale price fixed by the Government of India. Similarly, phosphatic and potasstic fertilizers are sold at the indicative sale price fixed by the Government.

[English]

Medicine for AIDS, TB and Cancer

3837. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a medicine has been developed to regain resistance power of the persons suffering from AIDS, TB and Cancer in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely time by which its availability is possible in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

World Food Programme

3838. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed an agreement with World Food Programme for improvement of food security through forestry activities in tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof;

(c) whether the Government had declined the offer made by World Food Programme for assistance; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture have signed an agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP), for implementing a project titled—"Improvement of Food Security through Forestry Activities in Tribal Areas of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan".

The main objectives of the project are:—

- (i) To provide sustainable improvement in the target group's food security and income; and
- (ii) Empowerment of communities particularly women and households through participatory integrated rural development.

Under the Project, WFP will provide wheat (91355 MT), Rice (42600 MT), pulses (12560 MT) and Vegetable

Oils (3465 MT) with an estimated Food cost of US\$ 45.560 million over a period of five years for distribution at concessional prices to the daily wage labourers of the State Forest Department belonging to the most disadvantaged & poorest population.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Enquiry against IOC's Officers

3839. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI BAIJNATH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inquiry is being conducted against some officers in the Vigilance department of Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) the number of cases out of them disposed of; and

(d) the time by which the pending cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As on 15.12.98, 81 inquiries are being conducted against some officers of IOC by the Vigilance Deptt. of IOC.

(c) Nil.

(d) The cases are under various stages of enquiry. It is not possible to indicate firm time schedule for completing these enquiries.

LPG Bottling Plants

3840. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:
SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: