

(d) if not, the reasons for not providing such facilities in these hospitals particularly in the metropolitan cities hospitals; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central Government Hospitals have the treatment facilities including adequately equipped ambulances.

(d) 'Health' being a State subject, it is responsibility of the concerned State Government to provide such facilities in the hospitals under their administrative control.

(e) There is a well organised Disaster Plan in existence and disaster ward in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital to meet any exigencies. Safdarjung Hospital/All India Institute of Medical Sciences have also framed plans to handle disasters.

In addition, strengthening of Emergency/Casualty Services in Central Government hospitals namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated hospitals have been approved by Standing Finance Committee on 10.2.1998 for implementation during the 9th Five Year Plan.

Import of Muriate of Potash

5001. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :
SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government stopped virtually the import of Muriate of Potash;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons behind the discontinuance of import;

(c) whether the import was restrained as a part of the sanctions imposed by the foreign countries;

(d) if so, the alternate arrangements proposed to tide over the contingency; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in restoring the import of Muriate of Potash and enhancing the domestic production of MOP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) and (b) Muriate of Potash (MOP) has been decontrolled since August, 1992 and its imports decanalised since June, 1993. There are no imports of MOP on Government account since then. These are made freely on private trade account within the framework of the Concession Scheme of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. 2.18 LMTs of MOP has been imported on private trade account during April-June'98. Besides the supply under German Soft Loan for which negotiations are nearing completion, more MOP is being contracted on private trade account.

(e) There being no commercially exploitable reserves of Potash in India, the entire requirement of MOP in the country is met through imports.

Progress of Fencing Work

5002. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in fencing and flood lighting of international borders indicating the sectors where it has been completed and the time so far taken in each case;

(b) the reasons for the slow progress and delay in completing the work;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the fencing and flood lighting of borders and target fixed for completion in each case; and

(d) the details of the borders and LOC that still remain to be fenced and flood-lighted.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) :

Indo-Pak Border

(a) *Punjab Sector:* Erection of fencing on 452 kms and flood lighting on 460 kms. of the border was sanctioned in various phases from 1988-89 and was completed by December, 1993 at a cost of Rs. 141.90 crores. The entire feasible length of border was fenced flood lit.