

Relief Committee (NCRC) will be held without delay to consider the report of the Central Team which visited the affected areas.

(b) and (c) The NCRC considered the report of the Central Team on Madhya Pradesh earthquake on June 20, 1997. On the basis of the decision of the Committee, Rs. 45.26 crores was released to the State Government from the National Fund for Calamity Relief and Rs. 10.10 crores as advance of the fourth instalment of the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund on 26.6.1997.

Use of Lactose

3151. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lactose is being used in the production of homoeopathic medicines;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from where the lactose has been imported; and

(c) the quantity of lactose proposed to be imported from each country during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To the extent information is available details are given below:

| Sl.No. | Item | Country from which imported |
|--------|--|--|
| 1. | Lactose USP | Newzealand, Singapore, Holland, Germany, Canada. |
| 2. | Lactose USP Direct Tableting (Pharmatose). | Holland, Germany. |
| 3. | Lactose USP (Maltose) | Japan |

(c) Lactose is under Open General Licence (OGL) as per the EXIM Policy, 1997-2002 and the firms are free to import their requirements from any country.

[English]

Price of Medicines

3152. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of Rifampicin has increased despite of giving exemption from excise duty in the budget for 1990-91;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to give subsidy to anti-T.B. and Leprosy drugs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been a marginal increase in the prices of formulations based on bulk drug Rifampicin during the period 1990-91 and 1995-96. This increase can be attributed to the fact that the price of bulk drug Rifampicin went up from Rs. 3850 per Kg. in 1991 to Rs. 5220 per Kg. in 1995. Government notified the increase in the price on the basis of a cost-cum-technical study which took into consideration the increase in prices of imported inputs on account of exchange rate variation, imposition of customs duty on imported intermediates etc. Moreover, excise duty on Rifampicin has also been re-introduced.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Under the National Tuberculosis Control Programme, anti-TB drugs are supplied free of cost to the TB patients through Government Health Facilities. World Health Organisation (WHO) also supplies Rifampicin, free of cost for the treatment of Leprosy.

Export of Meat

3153. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the slaughter houses/factories/industries engaged in the export of meat alongwith their maximum capacity; and

(b) the policy of the Government about the export of meat to various countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The details of meat processing facilities approved by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) are furnished in the Statement attached.

(b) The policy of Government of India for export of meat to various countries is as per the current Export-Import Policy under which export of beef (meat of cow and its progeny) is prohibited. However, export of meat of the buffalo (both male and female), goat and sheep is allowed subject to the conditions specified in the EXIM Policy.