

(b) and (c) The proposals received from the State Governments are under consideration.

[English]

Grant of Statehood to Uttrakhand

4971. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a bill in the current session for according Statehood to Uttrakhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether similar demands have been received from other States also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Article 3 of the Constitution of India provides, inter alia, that Parliament may by law form a new State by separation of territory from any State, provided that no Bill for the purpose shall be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the President and unless, where the proposal contained in the Bill affects the area, boundaries or name of any of the States; the Bill has been referred by the President to the Legislature of that State for expressing its views thereon. Uttarakhand is to be carved out of the existing State of Uttar Pradesh. Appropriate action will be taken when the Legislative Assembly of State of Uttar Pradesh is reconstituted after the forthcoming elections.

(d) and (e) A resolution for the formation of a separate State of Chhattisgarh passed by the Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh in March, 1994 has been received in the Government of India.

Patta on Forest Land

4972. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from Government of Kerala for getting permission for distribution of pattas on forest land to the local people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) The State Government of Kerala had furnished a proposal under the Forest

(Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 28,588.159 ha. of forest land for regularisation of pre 1.1.1977 encroachments taken place over forest land in Idukki, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur, Ernakulam and Kollam districts of the State. Formal approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the above mentioned proposal of the State Government has already been accorded on 31.1.1995.

Penicillin-G and Rifampicin

4973. SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA T.: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of Penicillin-G and Rifampicin imported during the last two years, year-wise/product-wise;

(b) whether these are available in the country;

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to safeguard the interest of domestic industry manufacturing these items; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a)	Penicillin-G	
	Quantity	Value
1994-95	10905 kg.	Rs. 1,13,89,114
1995-96 (upto Sept '95 only)	221.72 kg.	Rs. 4,59,736
(a)	Rifampicin	
	Quantity	Value
1994-95	23509 kg.	Rs. 5,61,65,295
1995-96 (upto Sept '95 only)	5475 kg.	Rs. 1,55,74,288

(SOURCE: DGHS)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Both Penicillin-G and Rifampicin continue to be in the negative list of imports. As per the Penicillin-G and Rifampicin Policy for 1996-97, announced on 13th August, 1996, the import of both the drugs, earlier linked to quantum of indigenous lifting has been done away with.

[Translation]

Hindi in Departmental Examinations

4974. SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been provision for exercising option to write answers in Hindi in the Departmental examinations;

(b) if so, whether this option is applicable only for four questions out of five in the departmental examination for the section officers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to allow option for all the questions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The option to answer three out of five question papers in the Departmental examinations, either in Hindi or in English, is already available. Now it has been decided to allow all candidates, except those of the Ministry of External Affairs, the option to answer one more question paper, namely noting, drafting and precis writing, either in English or in Hindi.

[English]

Indo US Collaboration

4975. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have entered into contract with the General Motors of US for the transfer of technology to manufacture modern diesel electric locomotives;

(b) if so, the main points of the agreement reached; and

(c) the time by which the implementation of the said work is likely to take place indicating the total US aid to be provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The contract with General Motors, USA is under implementation and no US aid has been so far provided for this.

STATEMENT

The main points reached on the agreement are:

(i) The contract will be valid for a period of 10 years.

(ii) The contract would enable Indian Railways to fully assimilate the technology pertaining to design, manufacture, maintenance and operation of the high HP State-of-Art Diesel Locomotives so as to enable Indian Railways to manufacture them in Diesel Locomotive Works/Varanasi.

(iii) General Motors would keep Indian Railways constantly informed of all improvements in technology of their product made in the interim period during the currency of the contract.

(iv) General Motors would jointly work with Indian Railways to develop sources in India for manufacture of locomotive components other than those manufactured in Railways workshops so as to establish a 95% level of indigenisation by the end of the contract period. They also undertake the responsibility for establishing a manufacturing facility in India so as to make the electrical equipments available indigenously by March '98.

(v) Indian Railways would pay General Motors a lumpsum amount of US\$ 17.5m in four phases spread over 10 years.

Hazardous Chemical Industries

4976. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed or proposed to allow the production of certain hazardous chemicals in India being burnt out in other countries of the world;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the ill-effects of such chemicals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the circumstances under which the industries have been allowed to produce such chemicals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) to (d) In order to keep a check on the production of hazardous chemicals, 21 chemicals/group of chemicals have been included in the list of industries in respect of which industrial licensing is compulsory. The Government of India have subscribed to the London Guidelines which require the taking of informed decision about banning/restricting imports of chemicals determined to be toxic/hazardous. Besides, the Government follows the guidelines of global Base Convention on the control of trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste and their disposal.

[Translation]

Displacement of Villages

4977. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: