

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) Such a proposal is receiving the attention of the Government.

Privatisation of Sick Units

2629. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a proposal to privatise/revive/modernise chronically sick PSUs in the drug sector;
- (b) if so, the details regarding action plan finalised for the chronically sick units;
- (c) the details of offers received for privatisation of these units and decision taken in this regard; and
- (d) the present status of the proposal especially regarding the fate of IDPL units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to privatise any sick PSU at this stage. Four Central PSUs, namely, Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), Bengal Immunity Limited (BIL), Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL) and Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Limited (SSPL) have been formally declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in terms of the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Three joint sector undertakings, namely, Uttar Pradesh Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (UPDPL), Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd. (ODCL) and Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Limited (MAPL) have also been formally declared sick by the BIFR.

Revival packages sanctioned by the BIFR are at different stages of implementation in BCPL, BIL, SSPL and ODCL. The revival package for UPDPL, sanctioned by the BIFR on 22/8/1995, was set-aside by the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) in October, 1996. In the case of IDPL, UPDPL and MAPL, decision with regard to the rehabilitation or otherwise is yet to be taken by the BIFR.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In the case of IDPL, the report of the Operating Agency namely, Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Bombay, appointed by the BIFR, has been received and a final decision about the future of IDPL is yet to be taken.

Reorganisation of MCD

2630. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether reorganisation of Delhi Municipal Corporation has been in progress;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many services like fire service under the Delhi Municipal Corporation has been transferred to the Delhi Government and some other services are likely to be transferred; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The decentralisation of the functions of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was approved in December, 1996. This decision was taken primarily with a view to taking civil administration to the door steps of the residents of Delhi by strengthening the zonal set up and by delegation of greater powers to the Zones. One of the salient features of reorganisation is that it is primarily based on the redeployment of existing resources.

(c) and (d) The functions relating to fire services were transferred from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi in November, 1994. More recently, the Delhi Vidyut Board was constituted in February, 1997 under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to replace Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking. The Delhi Municipal Corporation Act as amended in 1993 also provides for delinking the functions relating to water supply from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

[Translation]

Operation Sikh Forum

2631. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of an operation Sikh Forum (S.F.) launched by the Pakistani Intelligence Agency wherein the activists are being trained in carrying out various subversive activities in India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Government is not aware of any 'Operation S.F.' (Sikh Forum) launched by Pakistani Intelligence Agency. Government is, however, aware that some hard core Sikh militants are being sheltered in Pakistan. Reports have also been received of some Sikh youths being trained in various camps organised by Pak ISI in Pakistan in the use of arms and explosives.

(b) Red Corner Notices have been issued through Interpol for the arrest of top hard core militants being sheltered in Pakistan. Vigilance and surveillance along border with Pakistan including the coastal areas has

been strengthened to check infiltration of militants and smuggling of arms and explosives from across the border.

[English]

Purchase of Pistols

2632. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Har sal ek arab ki pistol kharidi gaye" appearing in the Hindustan, dated November 26, 1996;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to curtail such misappropriations?

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

(b) to (e) As per existing provisions of Arms Act, 1959 and Arm Rules, 1962, the dealership licences to deal with sale/purchase of firearms and ammunition are granted by State Licensing Authorities under delegated powers. The existing provisions make it mandatory on the part of every dealer to maintain prescribed registers to show receipts, disposals, balance of stock in hand, daily sales of various categories of arms and ammunition. Prescribed Field/Police Authorities are empowered to examine the stocks and accounts of receipts and disposals of arms and ammunition or any other register/document maintained by dealers. Sale/transfer of any firearm not bearing maker's name, manufacturer's number or other identification mark stamped/shown thereon in approved manner is prohibited. Sufficient powers have been delegated under the said Act/Rules to State Authorities to check/prevent any infringement of the prescribed provisions/procedures and to ensure that no irregularity in the trade of arms and ammunition takes place.

Decanalisation of Sugar Export

2633. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the views of the Ministry have been opposed by the Ministry of Law in regard to the decanalisation of the sugar export:

(b) if so, the main objections raised by the Law Ministry; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Custodial Deaths

2634. LT. GEN. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI :
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of custodial deaths reported during 1995-96 till date, state-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such deaths;

(c) the number of representations received regarding the custodial deaths by the National Human Rights Commission during 1995-96 till date;

(d) whether any recommendations on the custodial deaths in jails have been made by the NHRC; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) A statement on the deaths in police custody is enclosed.

(b) Although 'Police' is a State subject, the Government of India have issued guidelines to the State Governments, from time to time, to ensure that police behave in a humane manner and that cases of alleged custodial deaths and police excesses are enquired into and deal with firmly, wherever they occur, Special emphasis is being laid on human rights in the training curricula of police personnel at all levels. 'Induction' and 'in-service' training programmes also include special inputs to sensitise police personnel about the use of scientific methods for investigation.

(c) to (e) According to information available, the National Human Rights Commission does not maintain separate figures of representations received regarding custodial deaths. In order to address the issue of custodial deaths, including those in jails, the Commission has, inter-alia, recommended that the Government should accede to the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Crime, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment and that certain suggestions of the Law Commission/Supreme Court with regard to custodial deaths be acted upon. In some cases, the Commission has also held the view that payment of compensation to the victims of custodial deaths be the liability of not just the State Government, but of the offending police officials themselves.