

private agencies keeping in view the requirements. Hiring and de-hiring of storage capacity is a continuous process depending on the level of procurement/offtake of foodgrains. CAP storage is hired at the time of procurement and de-hired as and when it is no longer required. Since exact level of procurement and offtake cannot be estimated, some times the storage capacity remain under utilised.

(c) and (d) The Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) has recommended 75% utilisation of the capacity as the optimum. The Capacity utilisation during last three years, both covered and CAP (Owned & Hired) has been 87%, 82% and 65% as on 1.7.1994, 1.7.1995 and 1.7.1996 respectively. The hire utilisation of capacity of hired godowns is due to the fact that certain capacity is hired on occupancy basis i.e. 100% utilisation.

(e) The amount paid towards hiring of storage capacity including those from CWC/SWCs, State Governments and the private agencies during the last three years as follows:

| | (Rs in Lakhs) | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| For | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 |
| <i>(i) Covered Capacity</i> | | | |
| CWC | 4510.17 | 4033.81 | 2832.50 |
| SWC | 4270.41 | 5328.54 | 3608.81 |
| Pvt. parties | 1714.31 | 2424.06 | 3756.79 |
| under ARDC/ | | | |
| General | | | |
| State Govt. | 237.47 | 376.48 | 944.89 |
| <i>(ii) CAP</i> | | | |
| | 14.07 | 0.76 | 0.71 |
| Total | 10746.43 | 12163.65 | 11143.70 |

(f) The Food Corporation of India undertakes constant reviews and hires/dehires the storage capacity from time to time and it is a continuous process. 100% utilisation of the storage capacity is not possible.

[English]

OBC List

2057. SHRI P. R. S. VENKATESAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modify the central List of Backward Classes ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the National Commission for Backward Classes has submitted its proposal to modify the Central List of Backward Classes;

(d) if so, the details of communities to be included in the Central List of backward Classes;

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ;

(f) whether the Government also propose to exempt the occupational communities from the limit of creamy layer; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. On receipt of recommendations from National Commission for Backward Classes a statutory body, set up by this Ministry under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act 1993 to entertain, examine and recommend upon the request for inclusion and complaints of over inclusion and under inclusion in the Central Lists of Other Backward Classes, the Ministry of Welfare modify the Central Lists of Backward Classes.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. The National Commission for Backward Classes has recently recommended some castes/communities for inclusion in the Central List of Other Backward Classes & these are being notified very soon.

(f) and (g) Yes Sir. According to O.M.No. 36022/22/93 Estt (SCT) dated 8.9.1993 the persons working as artisans or engaged in the hereditary occupations callings etc. like Potters, Washarmen, Barbers etc. are exempted from application of the rule of exclusion.

Prices Vital Drugs

2058. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Vital Drugs' prices skyrocket" appearing in the *Times of India* dated May 15, 1997;

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

(c) the reasons for frequently increasing the prices of drugs?

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

(b) The general observation in the said news item is that NPPA has not been operational, therefore, the review of list of drugs under price control has not taken place, resulting

in new monopoly drugs not coming under control. In this context, it may be mentioned that NPPA has not become functional due to problems of administrative nature, which are being sorted out. However, a decision has been taken to initiate the process of updation of list of drugs under price control.

(c) Studies conducted for large selling formulations, including anti-malarial and hormonal drugs, reveal that while there is some increase in prices, there are cases of price decrease also. The price increase is not across the board and abnormal.

Increase in the price of bulk drugs, excipients, utilities, cost of packaging, fluctuation in foreign exchange rate for imported formulations, etc. have been found to be the reasons for price rise. Further, new introductions in any particular therapeutic category are invariably costlier than the existing drugs in that category for the reasons of R & D cost, initial marketing costs etc.

Privatisation of Modern Food Industries

2059. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise Modern Food Industries Ltd. ;

(b) if so, the reason therefor ; and

(c) the profits made by the undertaking during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b) The Public Sector Disinvestment Commission has recommended 100% disinvestment of Government of India's shareholding in Modern Food Industries Limited. The Govt. has taken no such decision.

(c) The profits after interest and depreciation made by the undertaking during the last three years are indicated below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

| | |
|---------|---------|
| 1993-94 | 65.19 |
| 1994-95 | 573.99 |
| 1995-96 | 1113.07 |

[Translation]

Bullish Resistance to Bovine Hormone

2060. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Bullish resistance to bovine

hormone" appearing in the *Times of India* dated June 19, 1997 ;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein ;

(c) whether the drug banned in many countries has been permitted in India;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(e) whether Indian Dairy scientists have fully studied the implications of the use of BGH;

(f) if so, the finding thereof ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the recommendation of the Genetic Engineering approval Committee, Ministry of Environment and Forests have given conditional environment clearance for the commercial use of Bovine Growth Hormone in some selected states. Drug Controller General of India is yet to accord approval for commercial use. Any use of this hormone will depend on its availability, price and return in terms of benefits to users.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The efficacy and safety aspects of the use of BGH on crossbred cows and buffaloes have been studied in limited laboratory and field studies under Indian conditions in controlled experiments at National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal. The increase in milk production due to BGH in cow and buffalo was similar without any observed adverse side effects on the animal health and production.

(g) The Government is considering various steps regarding issues relating to the use of this hormone in India. Work in assessing the benefits in administration of the compound to animals is also in progress at State Agricultural University in Maharashtra.

SC/ST Posts

2061. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes lying vacant throughout the country in the Ministry/Department, category-wise;