

Decontrol of Fertilizer

2115. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to decontrol all the fertilizers including Urea and revamp the present pricing policy during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to provide flat subsidy on each of the fertilizers including Urea, DAP, SSP and other nitrogenous farm nutrients; and

(d) if so, the details of the consideration or criteria for fixing subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) to (d) The phosphatic, potassic and low analysis nitrogenous fertilisers have been decontrolled. No decision has been taken to decontrol urea. The recommendations of the High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee are being examined.

Under the scheme of concession on sale of phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers to the farmers, the level of concession is decided keeping in view the cost involved in their manufacture/import and the sale prices indicated by the Government. In the case of urea, the gap between the unitwise retention price (i.e. cost of production as assessed by the Government plus reasonable return on networth) and the notified sale price is paid as subsidy.

[Translation]

Performance of LPG Companies

2116. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the performance of the public sector LPG companies alongwith the private companies;

(b) if so, the outcome of the assessment;

(c) the details of the private companies functioning for the supply of LPG in the country at present; and

(d) the steps taken to maintain the monopoly of the public sector companies in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The Government reviews the performance of the Public Sector Oil Companies marketing LPG from time to time. In regard to the private companies information on the quantity of LPG imported and

sold, LPG import facilities developed by them are collected by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Upto 30.4.1998, 18 private parties have imported about 355 TMT of LPG in bulk and 2 private parties have imported about 0.19 TMT in packed under Parallel Marketing Scheme. In addition, M/s Reliance Petroleum is marketing LPG produced from their Naphtha Cracker at Hazira and sold about 91 TMT upto April, 1998. The private parties, so far, could not make significant impact on LPG marketing of PSU oil companies. At present their market share is only 4.60% against 95.40% of Public Sector Oil Companies.

(c) 129 parties have obtained 'rating' as per the provisions of the amended LPG Control Order for engaging in LPG related business; at different periods of time. However, as of 31.3.98, only 46 parties have now got valid 'rating' certificate issued by notified agencies.

(d) Consequent upon introduction of Parallel Marketing Scheme of LPG, there is no monopoly of the Public Sector oil companies in LPG marketing nor is it intended, in the interest of competitive price and better service to consumers.

World Bank Aided Health Project in Maharashtra

2117. SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of health projects being launched in Maharashtra with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) the amount spent by World Bank on these projects so far;

(c) whether some more health projects with the World Bank assistance are likely to be launched in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (e) A project proposal received from the Government of Maharashtra under the State Health System Development Project has been posted to the World Bank for assistance. Such State Projects are developed through detailed discussion with the World Bank and past experience has shown that they take 12 to 24 months to fructify, depending up on the size of the project. The State authorities have been kept fully involved in the discussions with the Representatives of the World Bank at each stage, but it is not possible to comment on the final dimension of the project at this juncture.