

Manufacture of Rifampicin

*113. SHRI MOHAMMAD MAHFOO ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rifampicin, a drug for the treatment of T.B. and leprosy, is not manufactured in the country and its imports have been steadily increasing;

(b) whether certain companies which were granted letters of intent for the manufacturing of the drug some years back have yet to start its production;

(c) if so, the quantity (with value) of the drug imported since 1981-82 as against the demand; and

(d) the reasons for failure of the companies who have been given letter of intent to start production of the drug and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Rifampicin bulk drug is yet to be produced in the country. Formulations are being manufactured based on imported bulk drug.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details of imports for the past three years, year-wise are as under :

Year of Import	Qty. imported (in tonnes)	Value (CIF) Rs. lakhs
1981-82	16.00	663.02
1982-83	37.00	1,205.70
1983-84	76.00	1,589.81

(d) Among the reasons for the delays in commencing production are the size of investment and difficulties in securing economically viable technology. In order to encourage the production of Rifampicin, recently Government have delicensed Rifampicin for non-FERA and non-MRTP companies and to tally exempted the custom duty on the import of 3-formyl Rifampicin, Rifampicin-S which are intermediates for the production of Rifampicin bulk drug. Government is monitoring the progress of implementation of

Letters of Intent issued with a view to take appropriate action at appropriate stage.

Repayment of Advances Taken by
W.G. Forge Ltd. Kudal
(Maharashtra)

*114. PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether repeated representations have been made to his Ministry by W.G. Forge Ltd. at Kudal in the Sindhudurg District (Maharashtra) regarding the repayment of advances given for raw materials and the necessary adjustments with a view not to hamper production and employment;

(b) if so, whether in view of the fact that this is a defence oriented project, Government have taken a sympathetic view and evolved plans to help the plant at Kudal continue its production; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is sympathetically considering the representation in view of the fact that machining capacity in the Kudal Unit of W.G. Forge Ltd. can be utilised for defence production.

(c) As WG Forge is under liquidation and the official receiver is keeping the Kudal Unit alone running and since advances paid by Government on past orders placed on WG Forge are outstanding, the terms for placement of orders on official receiver and adjustment of past advance refundable to Government are being taken up with the official receiver.

[Translation]

Enquiry into Air Force Planes Involved
in Accidents

*115. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :
SHYI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item "15 dino main vayusena ke char viman durghatna-