

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: Is the hon. Minister aware that this policy of canalisation has resulted in utter failure inasmuch as life-saving drugs are not available to the people and scarcity is keenly felt in the market? Will he explain why this situation is taking place day in and day out, and will he take precautions in future to see that people do not suffer because of such scarcity?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: The policy of canalisation has not been a failure. In the statement which I have given, in Annexure II, it is clear that the price of canalised items is lower than the price of such items when imported by others. So, it is not a failure. It is a long list, I have given all the figures in the statement.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: Sir, I'll explain him again. I asked about the non-availability of life saving drugs. Is the hon. Minister aware that the common man often does not get life saving drugs and in hospitals in the city of Bombay and in most of the hospitals all over India, the people do not get life saving drugs. This is to the detriment of the health of the people of our country. What steps is he taking to see that life saving drugs, sophisticated drugs, are easily available at reasonable prices? They are importing drugs and they have given a long list. I want to know what steps they are taking to see that there is no scarcity of these life saving drugs and a regular supply is available to the people at reasonable prices.

SHRI DALBIR SINGH: So far as the scarcity of life saving drugs is concerned, their availability is monitored. We get reports from various sources, from Drug Controllers of State Governments and Zonal Drug Controllers and, after receiving their reports, we immediately monitor the supply. We also ask the manufacturers to rush the supply of drugs to areas where there is shortage of drugs.

Every effort is being made. The shortage is also met by imports. Sufficient import is made when it is felt that life saving drugs are in short supply.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in formulating the policy of canalisation of Bulk drugs, the drug industry and other associations and doctors, etc. concerned with it are consulted prior to formulating their policy which they are reviewing annually?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): As far as the formulation of the policy is concerned, it is not a new policy. The canalisation of drugs is going on since 1970-71. The Chavda Committee was appointed and that Committee has made certain recommendations that by canalisation, the things will improve. Actually, we are following the policy laid by the Chavda Committee as far as canalisation is concerned. I have got figures to prove that by canalisation, we have definitely gained because our bargaining power has improved. Moreover, we are able to monitor the imports. Whenever shortages are felt and the imports are much cheaper as compared to the Open General Licence.

Haldia Unit of H.F.C.

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*428. **SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA:**

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:

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

(a) the target date for Commissioning the Haldia unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation;

(b) the difficulties for commissioning the said unit; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for commissioning the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). The Haldia Fertilizer project of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation was mechanically completed in November, 1979, but the plant could not start production because of the inability of the West Bengal State Electricity Board to supply the required quantum of power. Government have approved the installation of a 20 MW gas turbine for the project. After the installation of the turbine, it would be possible to commission and run the fertilizer plant.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA: In the reply, the hon. Minister has put all the blame on the West Bengal State Electricity Board. But I cannot understand why the problem of electricity was not taken into consideration earlier and why the installation of a gas turbine was not taken up earlier. I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the target date within which the gas turbine would be installed and when the Haldia unit of HFC would be commissioned.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): The negotiation with the West Bengal Government for the supply of power was started as early as 1976 and every time we were given the hope that we would get the power. But, unfortunately, they have not been able to give us power. The total power they are giving us now is in the vicinity of four megawatts. Recently, during my visit to Calcutta, I requested the Chief Minister to increase the quantum of power supplied, and he has agreed to give about eight to ten megawatts. Then, we have given the sanction for the gas turbine; it would take about seven months to come. By that time, our position would be happy and I think the West Bengal Government would also be in a position to give us the requisite power

supply which is now 39 megawatts only.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS

Proposal for Reversal of Crude Import Policy

*426. **SHRIMATI GURBRINDER KAUR BRAR:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether a proposal for reversal of crude import policy for 1981-82 is under consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): No, Sir.

Improvement of Sick Drug Units in West Bengal

*429. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the need for effecting improvement of sick drug units run by State and Central Governments in West Bengal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). Government are aware of the need for improvement of sick drug units in West Bengal managed either by Central or State Governments. There is improvement in production and sales due to financial support extended by the Government and Financial Institutions and the positioning of senior experienced personnel.

Use of Alcohol for Automobiles

*430. **SHRI CHATURBHUI:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a press report that Brazil has succeeded in substituting 20 per cent of petrol by Alcohol for use of