

and where we feel that the Indian sector could produce these products, no fresh licence need be given at all. I am prepared to concede this part of it. Multi-nationals have been, of course, ruling this industry for quite some time. They have been having the upper hand. But because of the FERA policy now, their equity share participation is being reduced from time to time and I assure the House that, in the ultimate analysis, when it will be a case of enforcing the FERA in totality, very few foreign drug companies will remain who would be beyond the FERA Regulations.

A Committee had gone into that aspect. The Committee had made suggestions. Our action based on that.

My Hon. friends has also referred to dumping of medicines which have been rejected in foreign countries. When this aspect is brought to the notice of the Government, the Health Ministry as well as my Ministry, both of them, would take care of this.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार बतलायेगी कि आप अभी कितने करोड़ रु० की बल्क ड्रग इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं दूसरे देशों से और छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में आप कितने का करने जा रहे हैं और उसको कट डाउन करने के लिए तथा अपने पांव पर खड़े होने के लिए सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसका जवाब तो दे दिया है ।

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: In the Sixth Five Year Plan, the import of the drugs on the basis of the landed cost is roughly likely to be Rs. 150 crores of the bulk drugs. This would be the position.

My Hon. friend Shri Satyasadhan Chakraborty has already brought to the notice of the House the different

sectors and the amounts they are likely to produce in bulk drugs. He has already made the position clear. So far as this part is concerned, in the ultimate analysis, when it comes to the Sixth Five Year Plan, 1984-85, it will be negligible. The import would be to the tune of about 71/2 per cent of the drugs needed in this country.

Proposal to set up Methanol Project in West Bengal

*316. SHRI R. P. DAS:

SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

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

(a) whether the West Bengal Government has requested the Central Government that the proposed methanol project be set up in West Bengal in partnership with the Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on the West Bengal Government's proposal, stating in particular whether the letter of intent has been issued?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to

(c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c). M/s. West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited had applied for an Industrial Licence for the manufacture of Methanol with a capacity of 0.5 million tonnes per annum and of Pipe Line Gas with a capacity of 135x106 NM³/year. Their application was considered by the Government and was prima facie rejected on the following grounds:

(i) The proposal is based on coal gasification and the investment involved is very large.

(ii) Capacity gap for Methanol has already been bridged and the demand supply situation for Methanol is not acute.

(iii) There is no assurance of sustained supply of coal required for the project.

M/S West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited have represented against the *prima facie* rejection.

The Minister of Industry, Government of West Bengal has, in a letter to the Minister of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers, requested the Government to issue a Letter of Intent for the above project and later to share the equity with the Government of West Bengal for implementation of the project. The project envisages manufacture of Methanol for use as a fuel additive. The implications of using Methanol as a fuel additive and the relative techno-economic merits of manufacturing Methanol from different feedstocks such as coal and associated gas require detailed examination. The Government would take a decision on the proposal of the Government of West Bengal after this examination.

SHRI R. P. DAS: I am really surprised to find that the application of the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. has been summarily rejected on flimsy grounds. The application is for the grant of an industrial licence for the manufacture of 5 lakh tonnes of Methanol and 15 million cubic feet of industrial gas.

The grounds given in the statement are not at all convincing. Therefore, the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation has represented against this *prima facie* rejection. The Minister of Industry, Government of West Bengal, has further requested the Ministry of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers to issue a letter of intent. I would like to know when the Minister will consider this case and issue a letter of intent for this project.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: The exact time factor, it is not possible for me to give. On going through the record, I do not share the opinion of my hon. friend that the *prima facie* rejection was based on flimsy grounds. Some grounds have been given and I have found them to be tenable. I will read out the grounds so that the hon. Member and the House may know that they were tenable. Firstly, the proposal was based on coal gasification and the investment involved is very large; secondly, the capacity gap for methanol has already been bridged and the demand supply situation for methanol is not acute; thirdly, there is no assurance for sustained supply of coal required for the project. These were the grounds on which it was a case of *prima facie* rejection.

SHRI R. P. DAS: Coal is available in abundance in the Raniganj Assam-sol coal-belt.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: Coal is available, but I have found out from records that we will have to further invest a sum of Rs. 350 crores for the development of coal-field, so that it becomes the feedstock for the purposes of methanol production. Against this *prima facie* rejection, a representation has been made. The matter is under consideration because the Minister of Industries of West Bengal Government has made some fresh points. They will be looked into on their merits.

SHRI R. P. DAS: How can it be rejected on grounds of larger investment? It is a 15-year project and it will be implemented in four phases. How can he say that it can be rejected on the ground of larger investment?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I was trying to work out this morning. It comes roughly to about Rs. 800 crores on the basis of the feasibility report that has been submitted by the Corporation itself, besides Rs. 350 crores for the purpose of coal development; it would be, roughly, more than Rs. 1150 crores. There is no provision for

that. The Corporation has desired and the West Bengal Government have also desired that in the ultimate analysis, there should be equity participation of the Centre in this concern, will have to be spent by the Government as a result of which quite a large sum will have to be spent by the Government of India, and this is not included in the Sixth Plan. That is what, I thought, I should make it clear.

SHRI R. P. DAS: May I know whether it is a fact that the World Bank agreed to provide the West Bengal consultancy organisation about 35,000 dollars from its technical assistance fund for the preparation of 15 year perspective plan and if so, whether, in view of this, the Central Government has taken any decision to participate in such a venture?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I have already said that, so far as the Central Government is concerned, it is the request of the West Bengal Government that there should be equity participation. It would be, roughly, more than Rs. 500 crores in the ultimate analysis. There is no provision in the Sixth Plan. I have made my submission, and I don't think I should repeat it.

New Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan

*317. **SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the new telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in Rajasthan during the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of new telephone lines added in Rajasthan during the last two years; and

(c) the number of new telephone lines proposed to be added in Rajasthan during the years 1981-82 and 1982-83?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) About 140 new telephone exchanges are proposed to be installed in Rajasthan in the Sixth Plan.

(b) New Telephone line capacity added is as under:—

1979-80—3535

1980-81—5440

(c) It is proposed to add about 4,800 lines in 1981-82 and 14,000—lines in 1982-83.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: In view of the reply given by the hon. Minister that during the Sixth Five Year Plan, 140 new telephone exchanges are proposed to be opened, may I know from the Minister how many have been opened during the last two years and what is the proposal for this year?

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: I have given the figure.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Contract with West German Company for supply of diving equipment

*310. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT:** Will the Minister of PETROLUME CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC has entered into a contract with Dreager Werk Company of West Germany to supply deep sea diving equipment for the drilling vessel Samudra Prabhat;

(b) what are the details of the contract; and

(c) what are the areas selected for drilling?