

with the producers upto 30th November, 1975; and

(c) the quantity of fertilizers imported from abroad during the last calendar year?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) (a) and (b). During the period April—November, 1975, the total production of fertilizers in the country was 9.19 lakh tonnes of nitrogen and 2.07 lakh tonnes of phosphatic (P2O5). From time to time, there have been reports from the various units in regard to the accumulation of stocks with them both at the factory silos/godown and other points of distribution. The accumulation, as on 1st December 1975, was about 1.01 lakh tonne of nitrogen and 58,000 tonnes of P2O5. These figures relate only to the stocks held by the units in their factory silos or in their godowns at various places and do not cover the quantities which might be lying unsold with the various marketing agencies and other distribution points, including retail depots. Since these are scattered all over the country it is difficult to say precisely whether the fertilizers produced during the period April to November 1975 have been sold in their entirety to the farmer in the country.

It is relevant to mention that of late there is a pickup in demand for straight nitrogenous fertilizers like urea, but the demand for straight and complex phosphatics continues to remain sluggish. Government have taken a series of measures to improve the off-take of fertilizers. These include —

- (i) Reduction in the duty of imported phosphoric acid from 30 per cent to 15 per cent w.e.f. 1st December 1975.
- (ii) Reduction in the excise duty on single superphosphates from 15 per cent to 7½ per cent w.e.f. 1st December 1975.
- (iii) Reduction in the price of muriate of potash (MOP) from Rs 1085 to Rs 900 per tonne.

(iv) Reduction in the price of phosphatic fertilizers to the extent of Rs 1250 per tonne of P2O5.

(v) In addition the delivered price of urea to the farmer has also been reduced from Rs 1850 to Rs 1750 per tonne.

(c) About 19.62 lakh tonnes in terms of end products.

Establishment of drug manufacturing units in every State

*213 **SHRI MANORANJAN HOZPA.** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are considering to establish drug manufacturing units in every State to cater to the needs of the people, and

(b) if so when and the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) (a) and (b). There is no positive proposal at present before the Central Government to establish drug manufacturing units in every state. One of the recommendations of the Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry however is that State Government should form Joint Sector Ventures in collaboration with well established companies or technical entrepreneurs. This recommendation will not doubt be considered by State Governments.

प्रथम श्रेणी के सकारी डिब्बों को खतम करने का प्रस्ताव

*214. श्री पद्मा लाल बाह्याल : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यात्रा में शान्ता लाने के लिए सरकार का विचार प्रथम श्रेणी के सकारी डिब्बों को खतम करने का है ?

रेल मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री मुकुन्द शर्मा कुरेशी) : जी नहीं।

भोपाल और बीना के बीच रेलगाड़ी के डिब्बे में बिस्कोट

*216. श्री नाथूराम अहिरवार : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या 15 फरवरी 1976 को भोपाल और बीना के बीच एक यात्री गाड़ी के डिब्बे में बिस्कोट हुआ था ;

(ख) क्या इस बिस्कोट के परिणाम-स्वरूप डिब्बे में आग लग गई और एक व्यक्ति की मृत्यु हो जाने का भी समाचार है ; और

(ग) जी हां, तो इस बारे में रेल प्रशासन ने अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

रेल मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री मुकुन्द शर्मा कुरेशी) :

(क) जब 355 डाउन इटारसी ज़ासी सवारी गाड़ी मुंघेर और गुलाबगंज स्टेशनों के बीच जा रही थी, तो पटाखे फटने की एक घटना हुई। ये पटाखे एक वारात द्वारा सवारी डिब्बे में ले जाये जा रहे थे।

(ख) इससे आग नहीं लगी। यह पटाखों का अचानक फटना था। खतरे की जर्जर खींचने पर ज्योंही गाड़ी रुकी, एक बूढ़ा व्यक्ति टर के मारे कूद पड़ा। उसके तुरन्त बाद और लोग भी कूद और उसके ऊपर गिरे। मनीजा यह हुआ कि उस बूढ़े व्यक्ति को गंभीर आन्तरिक चोटें आयी और बाद में उसकी मृत्यु हो गयी।

(ग) पुलिस द्वारा मामले का जांच की जा रही है।

Production of Crude and Gas during Fifth Plan

*219. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLIUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has evolved a plan to step up its crude and gas production during the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) O.N.G.C. is intensifying its on-land exploration work in Assam, Gujarat, Punjab basin, Ganga Valley, West Bengal and Tripura, etc. It is proposed to commence production from Bombay High oil fields from April or May this year. The production of crude oil is expected to increase to 10.85 million tonnes in 1978-79 against an actual production of 4.03 million tonnes in 1973-74. Gas supplies will increase to 1993 million cubic metres against 386 million cubic metres in 1973-74. It is planned to establish additional recoverable reserves of 70 to 100 million tonnes of oil during the Fifth Plan period.

Setting up of Drug Manufacturing Units

*220. SHRI N. K. SANGHI Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether more licences are to be issued for setting up drug manufacturing units in the country;

(b) whether the existing manufacturing units are able to produce to their available capacity; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c) In order to achieve