

Licensing policy announced by Government in February 1973, undertakings registered under section 26 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 i.e.

(i) the undertakings which by themselves or together with their inter-connected undertakings have assets of not less than Rs. 20 crores, thereby attracting provisions of section 20(a); or

(ii) dominant undertakings which by themselves or with their inter-connected undertakings have assets of not less than Rs. 1 crore, thereby attracting the provisions of Section 20(b) of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, are considered as Large Industrial Houses.

These are not essentially the same as defined earlier by the Monopolies Inquiry Commission or the Industrial Licensing Policy Inquiry Committee. As the concept of Large Industrial Houses has thus undergone a fundamental change and the previous basis for classification has been discontinued, it is not possible to apply any common criteria and express an opinion on the increase or otherwise of the number of Large Houses in the industrial sector.

A list showing the names of Large Industrial Houses which have registered under the M.R.T.P. Act as on the 30th September, 1973, is laid on the table of the House. Place in Library. See No. LT-5898 173. It is not possible to classify the Houses by industrial sectors as each House comprises undertakings engaged in diverse activities.

(c) Does not arise.

Negotiations with I.C.I. regarding a Coal-Based Fertilizer Project

*329. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently started negotiations with the

Imperial Chemical Industries, U.K. for setting up a coal-based fertilizer project;

(b) whether Government have already contacted two members of the international Board of Directors of I.C.I. (U.K.) for the purpose;

(c) if so, a gist of the negotiations;

(d) whether it is the policy of Government to invite multinational firms for investment in India on a liberal scale; and

(e) if not, why these negotiations with the I.C.I. (U.K.)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a), (d) and (e). Indian Explosives Limited have evinced interest in setting up a fertilizer plant in India at a suitable location based on either fuel oil or coal as feedstock. A firm proposal, when received from the company in this regard, would be examined *inter alia* with reference to the present policy of Government in regard to participation of foreign firms in the fertilizer field and on overall techno-economic considerations.

(b) and (c). In their meeting here in October, 1973, the senior functionaries of the ICI showed interest in a project of the type referred to, but there were no specific discussions on this subject; nor has any formal approach or commitment been made in this behalf.

Increase in prices of Gypsum Supplied by F.C.I.

*335. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizer Corporation of India has recently increased the price of gypsum supplied to the farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is a scarcity of gypsum at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). Essentially, gypsum mined by F.C.I. is used as a raw material for production of ammonium sulphate at its Sindri Unit and Off-quality are, thrown up during mining and not suitable for fertilizer production is available for other applications.

Apart from some gypsum sold in 1969-70 to the State Government of Haryana for promotional purposes in run-of-mine (unbagged and in lump) condition in 1969-70, there were no regular commercial sales of gypsum for agricultural purposes till the end of 1972-73. In 1973-74, however the Corporation effected sales of gypsum to the Marketing Federation of Punjab and Haryana at the rates indicated below:—

- (i) Gypsum of 60 mesh and packed in polythene lined second-hand gunny bags of 50 Kg. capacity ex-Suratgarh station—Rs. 115 per tonne.
- (ii) Gypsum powder of 60 mesh and packed in polythene lined new bags of 50 Kg. capacity ex-Suratgarh station—Rs. 126 per tonne.

The above rates are inclusive of railway freight.

Since the sale of production this form has been effected by the Corporation for the first time, the question of any price increase does not really arise.

No reports of gypsum scarcity have come to the notice of the Government.

पटना और पहलेजाघाट के बीच चलनेवाले पुराने रेलवे स्टीमरों को बदलना

*336. श्री शंकर बरवाल सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पटना और पहलेजाघाटों के बीच गंगा नदी में चलने वाले रेलवे स्टीमर बहुत पुराने हो गये हैं और विगत एक वर्ष के दौरान उसमें कई बार खराबी आने के कारण यात्रियों को मज्जघार में ही रुके रहना पड़ा ;

(ख) क्या सरकार का विचार पुराने स्टीमर को नये स्टीमर में बदलने का है, और यदि हाँ, तो कब; और

(ग) गत एक वर्ष के दौरान उक्त स्टीमर सेवा से रेलवे को कितना लाभ अथवा हानि हुई ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री एल० एन० मिश्र) ।

(क) से (ग). विभिन्न स्थानों पर स्टीमर सेवा के सम्पूर्ण प्रश्न पर विचार किया जा रहा है ।

Import of Procaine Hydro-chloride by I.D.P.L.

*337. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Messrs. Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. have been allowed to import Procaine Hydrochloride during 1971-72 and 1972-73 and if so, the quantity imported;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange involved by way of imports; and

(c) whether indigenous manufacturers were contacted each time before permitting import and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). No import licence for import of Procaine Hydro-chloride was issued to M/s. Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd, during 1971-72