

INDIA'S FOREIGN LIABILITIES AND ASSETS

*567. **SHRI S. R. DAMANI** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey of India's foreign liabilities and assets has not been made by the Reserve Bank of India after 1955;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to make another survey to bring the position up-to-date ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER & MINISTER OF FINANCE, (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India conducted a survey of India's foreign liabilities and assets in 1961 and the Survey Report was published in 1964. The Reserve Bank also published in the January 1967 issue of its bulletin an article on India's International Investment Position in 1963-64 and 1964-65.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Data for subsequent years are being collected.

SHORTAGE OF ALCOHOL

*568. **SHRI S. S. KOTHARI** : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is considerable shortage of alcohol, consequent upon which various alcohol-based industries are working below capacity;

(b) if so, the action taken to step up the production or import of alcohol;

(c) whether Government are considering diversion of alcohol from the manufacture of wines and spirits to the alcohol-based industries; and

(d) the steps taken to provide alternate petro-based feedstocks to these industries viz. synthetic rubber, polystyrene, polyethylene and p.v.c which can use petro-butadiene petroethylene ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Production of alcohol depends on the availability of molasses which in turn depends on the production of sugar. The partial decontrol of sugar is expected to improve the position over a period. Meanwhile, arrangements have been made to import substantial quantities of alcohol for the major alcohol-based industries in the country.

(c) The State Governments are not agreeable to this proposition as it would result in a reduction in their excise revenues.

(d) Imports of styrene have been arranged for the two polystyrene units in the country. One of them has planned to switch over from alcohol to ethylene to be obtained from the Bombay Petrochemical Complex during the current year. Arrangements are also under consideration for import of butadiene for Synthetic Rubber Factory at Bareilly. Once this is achieved, availability position of alcohol in the country is expected to ease considerably.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

3401. **SHRI BABURAO PATEL** : Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the nature of checks provided for ensuring purity and standards of the products manufactured by Pharmaceutical Companies by Government prior to their sales to the public;

(b) the number and names of products found impure and substandard during the last 3 years and the names of their manufacturers; and

(c) the action taken against each ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the