

prices of drugs by and large at reasonable levels.

The Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals have made comprehensive recommendations on the rationalisation of prices of drugs and medicines. Government is expected to take decision on the recommendations of the Committee shortly.

Fertilizer Undertakings and their Production Capacity

349. SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS: be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer undertakings and capacity of production of each;

(b) the number and capacity classified according to use of coal and oil in manufacturing process;

(c) the extent to which shifts in manufacturing process are envisaged in view of dwindling availability of oil at reasonable price; and

(d) salient features of any time bound plan in this regard?

The Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) A statement indicating the names of nitrogenous fertilizer manufacturing units presently in operation, their capacity and the feedstock used is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. LT-339/77].

(b) While there is at present no plant based on coal or fuel oil in operation, two plants based on coal and six plants based on fuel oil as feedstock are under various stages of construction.

(c) and (d). Presently a variety of feedstock like naphtha, lignite, coke, coke-oven gas, electricity and natural gas are being used for the production of nitrogenous fertilizers. A majority of the operating units are, however, based on naphtha as feedstock. It is Government's policy to utilise to the maximum extent gas

that would be available from onshore and offshore sources. It is also Government's policy to permit only to the minimum extent petroleum products as the fertilizer feedstock. Additional plants using coal as feedstock will be considered only after experience is available of the operation of the two plants under construction.

Maruti Limited and its Sister-concerns

350. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS: be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Company Law Board or any other Government Agency have enquired into the purchases of shares of Maruti Limited and its sister-concerns or loans given to it by (1) Non-nationalised Banks (2) Public Limited Companies; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). The Company Law Board has not ordered an enquiry under the Companies Act into the purchase of shares by non-nationalised Banks and public limited companies of Maruti Limited and its sister-concerns. It is, however, a fact that under section 372 of the Companies Act, public limited companies are required to obtain the approval of the Central Government in cases where any investment is made by them in the shares of other companies beyond the limits prescribed in the Section. So far the Central Government had been approached for such approval only by J. K. synthetics Limited for investment in shares of Maruti Limited, in which case the approval was granted.

O. & N.G.C. Agreement with a Company of France

351. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: