

(b) whether due to high cost of transportation of rice and wheat from North and South respectively to other parts of the country the final cost of foodgrains becomes high and is a contributing factor to less off-take apart from the low purchasing power being a subsidiary cause;

(c) what other causes, according to Government are contributing to this spread over; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir. The total off-take of foodgrains which stood at 13.33 million tonnes in 1984 rose to 15.80 million tonnes in 1985, and during 1986 (upto October) has amounted to 14.99 million tonnes.

(b) The foodgrains from the Central Pool are issued at subsidised Central issue prices, which are uniform through-out the country.

(c) the off-take from the public distribution system depends on a number of factors such as availability in the open market, prevailing prices, consumer preferences etc.

(d) The Government have liberalised the allocations for public distribution. Foodgrains are also being provided for rural employment schemes, and also for distribution at specially subsidised rates to the people in the tribal areas and in welfare schemes for women and children.

Mismanagement in affairs of Research and Development of BHEL

4334. SHRI PHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY :
SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen press reports about alleged mismanagement in the

affairs of the Research and Development of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) what remedial steps are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). BHEL has formulated guidelines for technology policy for R and D work. The facilities created at the R and D centre are being used for various testing and development programmes. Orders for about Rs 200 crores have already been received for the products developed through R and D efforts.

Expert Committee to examine Drug Units

4335. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed an Expert Committee to examine certain Drug Units in both Small Scale and DGTD registered units permitted to produce 6-APA and other Semi Synthetic Penicillins from Penicillin to assess their installed capacities;

(b) if so, the number and names and the members of the Expert Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has since submitted any report to Government and if so, its main findings; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto and action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. A team was appointed *inter alia* to determine the capability of the small scale sector units to produce 6-APA before arranging availability of Penicillin 1st Crystals.