

Ms. Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Papers Ltd (TNPL) have reported that they have reduced their production of newsprint based on the orders received and diverted their production to writing & printing paper. No other public/joint sector newsprint mills have either stopped or reduced production of newsprint.

(c) and (d): Government have taken following steps to increase the indigenous production of newsprint:-

(i) A capacity of 6.90 lakh tonnes by way of Industrial Licences/Letters of Intent has been sanctioned.

(ii) Under the New Industrial Policy Newsprint units based on minimum 75% pulp derived from bagasse, agro-residues and other non-conventional raw materials have been exempted from compulsory industrial licensing subject to locational policy. As a result of this 30 IEMs for a total capacity of about 15.77 lakh tonnes have been filed by the intending entrepreneurs for the manufacture of newsprint.

(iii) Customs duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint has been abolished. Newsprint is exempted from excise duty.

(iv) With a view to encouraging the indigenous availability of newsprint such paper mills who are producing paper conforming to BIS standards for newsprint and if their paper is being used by newspapers and its quality is found satisfactory by them, are being considered by Government for inclusion in Schedule I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962. At present there are 21 newsprint mills in the country with an annual installed capacity of about 5.40 lakh tonnes which have already been included in Schedule I.

Closure of Hindustan Insecticides Limited

1154. SHRI TARA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Hindustan Insecticides Limited is facing closure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to save the workers from retrenchment;

(d) whether H.I.L. has obtained any order from the Ministry of Health for supply of DDT for the year 1994-95; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a), (b), (d) and (e). The DDT plants of Ms. Hindustan Insecticides Limited had been facing closure since the regular orders for supply of DDT were not received from the Ministry of Health, the sole customer for DDT. In order to avert a crisis, the matter was taken up with the Ministry of Health. Regular orders for supply of DDT, though for a lesser quantity, have since been received on 15/7.11.1994 from the Ministry of

Health, and the DDT plants have again started functioning.

(c) Does not arise.

Performance of Public Sector Undertakings

1155. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some guidelines have been issued to the Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of his ministry to improve their performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of such undertakings which are incurring losses and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to check their losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The performance of all Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) is reviewed by the Government on a regular basis. During these review meetings, suggestions, are given to the undertakings to improve their performance.

(c) The following Central PSUs have reported losses in the year 1993-94:-

1. Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. (HFC)
2. Fertilizers Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI)
3. Projects & Development of India Ltd. (PDIL)
4. Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd. (PPCL)
5. Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL)
6. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF)
7. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL)
8. Bengal Immunity Ltd. (BIL)
9. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL)
10. Hindustan Antibiotic Ltd. (HAL)
11. Smith Stainstreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (SSPL)

HFC and FCI have incurred losses due to low capacity utilisation mainly on account of design/equipment deficiencies, frequent equipment breakdown, ageing of plants, power problems, etc. The losses of PPCL and MFL, which produce phosphatic fertilizers were also due to low capacity utilisation of their plants arising out of reduced off takes consequent to increase in the price of phosphatic fertilizers following decontrol in August, 1992 and higher cost of production *vis-a-vis* the price of imported DAP. In case of MFL, the acute shortage of water in Madras City has also contributed to its loss. RCF has suffered loss mainly due to additional liability on Kuwaiti Dinar loan due to exchange rate fluctuation. Losses in PDIL, which is an engineering consultancy organisation, were mainly due to lack of order for catalysts and reduced job opportunities for Engineering Consultancy Division.

IDPL, SSPL, BIL and BCPL have incurred losses mainly due to under-utilisation of existing capacity, non-availability of working capital, excess manpower, huge interest burden, old technology, etc.

As regards HAL, it incurred loss during the year 1993-94 mainly due to provision towards interest on Government term loans.

(d) HFC, FCI and PDIL have been declared as sick companies and referred to BIFR. ICICI has been appointed as the operating agency for these companies with the direction to submit unitwise revival plans. In the mean time, budgetary support, to the extent possible, is being provided to enable these companies to meet the expenditure on normal renewal/replacement, etc. As regards, MFL, it has commissioned Tertiary Treatment and Reverse osmosis plant to produce 3.5 mgd. water from the city sewerage. Revamping of its plant has been taken up. Having been compensated for the loss incurred due to exchange rate fluctuations of RCF's Kuwaiti Dinar loan, the company is likely to earn pre-tax profit during the year 1994-95. PPCL is making extensive efforts for cost reductions and efficiency improvement which will improve its overall performance in future.

IDPL, BIL, BCPL and SSPL have been formally declared sick and referred to BIFR. The revival plans for IDPL and SSPL have already been approved by the BIFR and those for BIL and BCPL are awaiting final orders. With the capital restructuring of HAL, the company is expected to improve its overall performance in future.

Housing Projects in Gujarat

1156. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some housing projects have been launched in Gujarat with foreign assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which this assistance is being utilised; and

(c) the number of houses constructed under construction with the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (c) Under KFW (Germany) line of credit provided to Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) for sanctioning & releasing loans for construction of low cost houses, a loan assistance of Rs.11.22 lakhs has been given to Bha Nalkantha Khadi Gramodyog Mandal, Ranpur, Gujarat for construction of 66 tenements for the employees of the above mentioned society.

No other foreign assistance exclusively for housing activities in the State has been extended to Govt. of Gujarat.

[Translation]

Power Generation

1157. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign companies are being invited or their assistance is being sought for generating power

through non conventional energy sources in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the names and details of such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Private Sector investment by foreign companies in the field of non-conventional energy is being explored by the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources. A number of tie-ups between various Indian and foreign companies have taken place in recent past for the setting up of manufacturing units in renewable energy systems and devices. Interest has been expressed by the following foreign companies for power generation through non-conventional energy in Maharashtra:

1. Ms International Business Connections, an NRI Company in Australia, has shown its willingness to invest in India including two sites with a total capacity of 7 MW in Bombay.

2. Ms Zelcron Industries Inc., USA have offered to Governments of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu directly, for setting up Biomass-based Electricity generating projects from municipal city wastes.

3. Ms Thermochem Inc., California, USA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ms. Ajinkyatara Cooperative Sugar Mills, Maharashtra for setting up of a Project for generation of 10 MW power through bagasse gasification.

4. Ms. Siemens Solar, USA are setting up a 1 MW per year module line with Siemens Solar India, New Delhi at Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

5. Ms. Eco Solar, Pune is working with University of Colorado, USA for developing Cadmium Telluride based PV modules with an annual capacity of 700 KW.

6. Ms. Emgee Solar Systems, Bombay have entered into an MOU with Martin Marietta of USA for manufacture of Cu₂S₂ (Copper Indium diselenide) based PV Modules.

[English]

Braithwaite and Company Limited

1158. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether IRBI, Calcutta has floated tender seeking alternative promoter for the Braithwaite and Company Limited, situated in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal for revival of the Company from its employees; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Ms Braithwaite & Company Ltd. (BCL) a central public sector company is presently before BIFR. It was declared sick by the BIFR and IRBI was appointed as Operating