

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c). The setting up of Regional Electricity Authorities has been a subject of discussion with the States and also at the Power Minister's Conference. Many of the States have expressed reservation in regard to setting up of such Authorities. No alternative proposals have emerged so far.

Coordinating Body for Effective Working of Public Enterprises

3734. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that because of sudden lack of orders from the ONGC and Oil India Limited, BHEL will stand to lose Rs. twenty crores in its investment in oil rigs ;

(b) whether with further cutback in domestic oil production being contemplated, there would be similar huge losses suffered by other public sector enterprises which have been supplying equipment, material and machinery to ONGC and OIL ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to institute a special coordinating body or cell which would oversee the effective working of public sector enterprises *vis-a-vis* mutual profitability and productivity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Modern plant for packed foods at Nasik in Maharashtra

3735. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a modern plant for packed foods which could be kept for use for at

least two years without freezing or refrigeration is likely to be set up at Nasik in Maharashtra ;

(b) whether it is proposed to pack only Indian food or continental dishes also ;

(c) the names of the foreign collaborators ;

(d) whether the project has been given clearance and scrutinised from the point of view of bacteria proof and heat stability ; and

(e) if so, when the plant is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e). M/s. All seasons Foods Limited, Bombay, have been registered with DGTD for manufacture of 10,000 tonnes per annum of Processed Food Products based on vegetable, fruits, meat and marine products. The unit is to be located at Ambad, District Nasik. They have proposed to have foreign collaboration with M/s. Booth & Smith Associates, England. The date of commissioning of the project has not been indicated.

The question of clearance from the point of view of various requirements would arise when the plant has been commissioned and is ready to go into operation.

Poor Productivity in Pharmaceuticals Industry

3736. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that productivity in pharmaceuticals industry in India is very poor as compared to the demand of essential drugs ;

(b) whether there is a serious shortage of several essential and life-saving drugs,