

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to step up the availability of industrial alcohol for industrial units; and

(d) whether khandsari molasses is proposed to be utilised for increasing the supply of industrial alcohol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) The State Governments have been advised from time to time to ensure that the total quantum of levies on alcohol used for production of alcohol based chemicals is kept at a level, which the alcohol based industry will be able to bear and which will make its products competitive with those produced from alternative petrochemical feedstocks.

(c) While as per present reckoning, there is likely to be sufficient indigenous availability of alcohol for industrial use in the current alcohol year, the possibility of imports is also not ruled out in the event of any shortfall.

(d) The State Governments have been advised to control khandsari molasses to improve the availability of molasses and alcohol.

"Double Cola" Soft Drinks

186. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :
DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a soft drink company "Double Cola" has been allowed to manufacture its product in India as reported in the Hindustan Times of February 1, 1987;

(b) if so, whether it involves any foreign exchange outgo for know-how or other imports;

(c) the Government's policy regarding allowing imports of items for soft drinks concentrates;

(d) whether soft drinks are causing various health problems even in children; and

(e) if so, the reasons for Government encouraging soft drinks manufacture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Manufacture of soft drink concentrates is a non scheduled industry and as such it does not require an Industrial Licence under the Industrial Development and Regulation Act. However the Double Cola Manufacturing Company (India) Private Limited has informed us in January, 1987 that it has set up a unit for the manufacture of soft drink concentrates at Nasik in Maharashtra.

(b) The entire equity capital of the project has been brought in by the promoters in foreign exchange on a non repatriation basis both as regards capital and dividends. There is also no foreign exchange outgo on account of imported know-how. However, the project involves import of capital equipment and raw-materials for the manufacture of soft drink concentrates that are not indigenously available.

(c) Import of raw-materials for the manufacture of soft drink concentrates which are not indigenously available is permitted in accordance with the import policy from time to time.

(d) The standards of carbonated water have been prescribed under item A. 01.0.1 in Appendix-B of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. Consumption of carbonated water conforming to the specification laid down under P. F. A. Rules, is not considered harmful.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (d).