

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) No, Sir. A representation has, however, been received from North India Small Scale Drugs Manufacturers' Association, requesting for abolition of excise duty in respect of all medicines.

(b) and (c). The excise duty structure on patent or proprietary medicaments was reviewed during this year's budget and the duty structure was rationalised and aligned with the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987. It is not proposed to make any change in the basic scheme of excise duty structure announced in the budget.

News item Captioned "MMTC's Favour to Multinationals"

7076. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in "The Indian Express" dated 18 March, 1988 under the caption "MMTC's favour to multinationals"

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). MMTC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in consultation with National Aluminium Company (NALCO) with M/s. Hydro Trading SA, Lausanne, Switzerland on 20.3.1987 for export of 100,00 tonnes of Alumina at a minimum

price of US \$ 125 PMT FOB and 10.5 % on average cash London Metal Exchange (LME) price of aluminium for the month prior to the month of shipment. The MOU provided for detailed contract to be finalised by April, 1987. This being the first contract for export of alumina through MMTC it took some time to finalise the terms of the contract draft of which could be forwarded by MMTC to M/s. Hydro Trading in May, 1987. The foreign buyers raised some objection. After discussion between NALCO, MMTC and Hydro Trading, a contract was finalised in November, 1987 stipulating export of 100,000 tonnes of alumina at a price of US \$ 160 PMT FOB. The contract was finalised at international market price. There is, therefore, no question of any loss to the public exchequer in these exports.

Central Scheme for Allocation of Grants for Irrigation Purpose

7077. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given its approval on a Central scheme for allocating grants to the farmers, particularly to those belonging to the weaker sections of the society, for the sources of irrigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether some other State have also sent their proposal under this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have allocated grants to the States under this scheme so far;

(f) whether drought affected States like Rajasthan has been allocated grants on priority basis; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, Statewise.