

Hathi Committee Report, which has already been laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Since the Permission Letters were issued in the fifties, it is not possible to state if Indian Companies had been refused the manufacture of any such item covered by Permission Letters issued to Foreign Companies.

Reduction in cost of production of Fertilizers

4791. DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the fact that more than Rs. 50 crores are given by way of subsidies to indigenous phosphatic fertilizers, what concrete steps are being taken by Government to reduce the cost of production of these fertilizers; and

(b) what is the total quantity of phosphatic fertilizers imported in the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) About 60 to 70 per cent of the cost of production of phosphatic fertilizers is accounted for by the cost of basic inputs like imported phosphatic acid, rock-phosphate, bulk of which is imported, and potash and sulphur, both of which are also imported. As the inputs are mainly imported, we have little control over their cost. However, it has been the constant endeavour of Government to reduce the cost of production and make fertilizers available to the farmers at reasonable prices. With this in view, measures such as reduction in import duty on phosphoric acid, reduction in excise duty on super-phosphate and reduction in the price of imported potash were taken in the past in order to reduce the cost of production and thereby, the price to the farmers. Since, however, these measures were not adequate to bring about significant reduction in the prices of phosphatic fertilizers, the scheme of price support was introduced with a view to bringing down the prices.

(b) The quantity of imports of phosphatic fertilizers in terms of nutrient is furnished below:—

Year	Quantity in lakh tonnes of P 205
1975-76	3.37
1976-77	0.23
1977-78	1.64

Lay off in M/s. Dharanghdra Chemical Works and M/s. Plastics Resins Limited, Sahapuram Arumuganeri and Tirunelveli

4792. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was lay off in Messrs Dharanghdra Chemicals Works, Sahapuram and Messrs Plastics Resins Limited, Sahapuram, Arumuganeri Tirunelveli District Tamilnadu State during the current year as well as last year;

(b) if so, what is the reason therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that a number of small scale industries depending upon the raw material Resins, will be affected if M/s. Plastics Resins were to stop production; and

(d) if so, whether the Government would take over the management of this Unit in the interest of the small scale industries or whether the alternative entrust the management with its sister Unit viz., Dharanghdra Chemical Works Ltd., Sahapuram for its management?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) (a) and (b). There was no lay off in M/s. Dharanghdra Chemicals Works during the current year or during the last year. M/s. Plastic Resins and Chemicals Limited was closed from 11th November to 24th November, '77 and during this period the workers were laid off. The factory again closed down on 15th February, 78 due to uneconomic operations and the lay off of the workers continues since then.

(c) and (d). The problems of this Company were discussed in an inter-Ministerial Meeting and the matter is under examination.

In the meantime, import of PVC resins is being allowed to meet the gap between the demand and the indigenous availability.

Sale of Non-Canalised bulk drugs to IDPL on high-sea basis

4793. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) details of non-canalised bulk drugs sold to IDPL on high-sea basis during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) under what authority were these high-sea sales were also effected in favour of any other authority; if so, details thereof; if not, why; and