

private agencies keeping in view the requirements. Hiring and de-hiring of storage capacity is a continuous process depending on the level of procurement/offtake of foodgrains. CAP storage is hired at the time of procurement and de-hired as and when it is no longer required. Since exact level of procurement and offtake cannot be estimated, some times the storage capacity remain under utilised.

(c) and (d) The Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) has recommended 75% utilisation of the capacity as the optimum. The Capacity utilisation during last three years, both covered and CAP (Owned & Hired) has been 87%, 82% and 65% as on 1.7.1994, 1.7.1995 and 1.7.1996 respectively. The hire utilisation of capacity of hired godowns is due to the fact that certain capacity is hired on occupancy basis i.e. 100% utilisation.

(e) The amount paid towards hiring of storage capacity including those from CWC/SWCs, State Governments and the private agencies during the last three years as follows:

	(Rs in Lakhs)		
For	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
<i>(i) Covered Capacity</i>			
CWC	4510.17	4033.81	2832.50
SWC	4270.41	5328.54	3608.81
Pvt. parties	1714.31	2424.06	3756.79
under ARDC/			
General			
State Govt.	237.47	376.48	944.89
<i>(ii) CAP</i>			
	14.07	0.76	0.71
Total	10746.43	12163.65	11143.70

(f) The Food Corporation of India undertakes constant reviews and hires/dehires the storage capacity from time to time and it is a continuous process. 100% utilisation of the storage capacity is not possible.

[English]

OBC List

2057. SHRI P. R. S. VENKATESAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modify the central List of Backward Classes ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the National Commission for Backward Classes has submitted its proposal to modify the Central List of Backward Classes;

(d) if so, the details of communities to be included in the Central List of backward Classes;

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ;

(f) whether the Government also propose to exempt the occupational communities from the limit of creamy layer; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. On receipt of recommendations from National Commission for Backward Classes a statutory body, set up by this Ministry under the National Commission for Backward Classes Act 1993 to entertain, examine and recommend upon the request for inclusion and complaints of over inclusion and under inclusion in the Central Lists of Other Backward Classes, the Ministry of Welfare modify the Central Lists of Backward Classes.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. The National Commission for Backward Classes has recently recommended some castes/communities for inclusion in the Central List of Other Backward Classes & these are being notified very soon.

(f) and (g) Yes Sir. According to O.M.No. 36022/22/93 Estt (SCT) dated 8.9.1993 the persons working as artisans or engaged in the hereditary occupations callings etc. like Potters, Washarmen, Barbers etc. are exempted from application of the rule of exclusion.

Prices Vital Drugs

2058. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Vital Drugs' prices skyrocket" appearing in the *Times of India* dated May 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ; and

(c) the reasons for frequently increasing the prices of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The general observation in the said news item is that NPPA has not been operational, therefore, the review of list of drugs under price control has not taken place, resulting