

in new monopoly drugs not coming under control. In this context, it may be mentioned that NPPA has not become functional due to problems of administrative nature, which are being sorted out. However, a decision has been taken to initiate the process of updation of list of drugs under price control.

(c) Studies conducted for large selling formulations, including anti-malarial and hormonal drugs, reveal that while there is some increase in prices, there are cases of price decrease also. The price increase is not across the board and abnormal.

Increase in the price of bulk drugs, excipients, utilities, cost of packaging, fluctuation in foreign exchange rate for imported formulations, etc. have been found to be the reasons for price rise. Further, new introductions in any particular therapeutic category are invariably costlier than the existing drugs in that category for the reasons of R & D cost, initial marketing costs etc.

Privatisation of Modern Food Industries

2059. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise Modern Food Industries Ltd. ;

(b) if so, the reason therefor ; and

(c) the profits made by the undertaking during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) and (b) The Public Sector Disinvestment Commission has recommended 100% disinvestment of Government of India's shareholding in Modern Food Industries Limited. The Govt. has taken no such decision.

(c) The profits after interest and depreciation made by the undertaking during the last three years are indicated below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

1993-94	65.19
1994-95	573.99
1995-96	1113.07

[Translation]

Bullish Resistance to Bovine Hormone

2060. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Bullish resistance to bovine

hormone" appearing in the *Times of India* dated June 19, 1997 ;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein ;

(c) whether the drug banned in many countries has been permitted in India;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(e) whether Indian Dairy scientists have fully studied the implications of the use of BGH;

(f) if so, the finding thereof ; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the recommendation of the Genetic Engineering approval Committee, Ministry of Environment and Forests have given conditional environment clearance for the commercial use of Bovine Growth Hormone in some selected states. Drug Controller General of India is yet to accord approval for commercial use. Any use of this hormone will depend on its availability, price and return in terms of benefits to users.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The efficacy and safety aspects of the use of BGH on crossbred cows and buffaloes have been studied in limited laboratory and field studies under Indian conditions in controlled experiments at National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal. The increase in milk production due to BGH in cow and buffalo was similar without any observed adverse side effects on the animal health and production.

(g) The Government is considering various steps regarding issues relating to the use of this hormone in India. Work in assessing the benefits in administration of the compound to animals is also in progress at State Agricultural University in Maharashtra.

SC/ST Posts

2061. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes lying vacant throughout the country in the Ministry/Department, category-wise;

(b) whether some persons belonging to other castes are working on the said posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to fill up the backlog ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) The requisite information in being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Vigilance/Corruption Cases

2062. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of civil servants investigated by the Vigilance Department of Ministry in 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the number of officers (Grade-wise) found involved therein;

(c) the number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty in 1995-96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Vigilance initiate action *suo moto* against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt ;

(e) whether the Ministry have made any review of the functioning of powers of the vigilance section under their control ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (f) There is no Vigilance Department of the Ministry. However, both the departments viz. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and Department of Fertilizers in the Ministry have separate vigilance units in accordance with the extant guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission. Eight complaints of corruption against ten officials of the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals were received in the vigilance unit of that Department and were examined during 1995-96 and 1996-97. No case of corruption or dishonesty in respect of officers of the Department of Fertilizers was investigated by the vigilance unit of that Department in 1995-96 and 1996-97. The Annual Property returns of all Group A and B officers were, however, scrutinised as per the prescribed procedure and no case of disproportionate assets came to light.

Discontinuation of Wheat in Open Market

2063. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN :
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALLA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the FCI has discontinued the open sale of wheat in the market ;

(b) if so, the date from which it has been discontinued and the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether this decision of the FCI adversely affects on some States particularly in Kerala ;

(d) whether representations have been received to revive the open sale of wheat by FCI ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ;

(f) whether the Government propose to issue directions to the FCI to revive the open sale of wheat in the market ; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir, the Open Market Sale Scheme has been discontinued.

(b) The Open Market Sale Scheme has been discontinued with effect from 1st April, 1997 till further orders due to tight position of wheat stock in the Central Pool.

(c) No reports have been received regarding adverse affect due to discontinuation of open sale of wheat as Rabi season started in April, 1997 and there was ample availability of wheat in wheat producing states from where it was moved to other states on trade account also.

(d) and (e) Government of India have received representations from Kerala Roller Flour Millers Association, Karnataka Roller Flour Mill Association and Confederation of Flour Mills of Southern States for resumption of open sale of wheat to continue with the Open Market Sale Scheme.

(f) and (g) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration with the Government to sell wheat in the open market.

Upgradation of Research Organisations

2064. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken special steps to encourage/strengthen/upgrade research Organisations/