

Indian Drugs Pharmaceutical Limited

100. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the manufacturing of life-saving drugs at Indian Drugs Pharmaceutical Limited has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revive the package of manufacture of life saving drugs of IDPL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) to (c) The production of drugs manufactured by IDPL is at a very low level since October, 1996 and it discontinued in between. A revival package for IDPL was approved in 1994 and financial assistance in excess of what was envisaged in the package was extended to the company by the Government. Despite this, IDPL could not achieve the targeted levels of sales, production and profitability. The BIFR declared that the package has failed and appointed IDBI as the Operating Agency to examine techno-economic viability of IDPL afresh. IDBI reported that an economically viable revival package for IDPL cannot be drawn up. However, the revival proposal submitted by IDPL in June, 1998 is being processed.

Pilgrims Died at Sabarimala

101. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pilgrims visited Sabarimala in Kerala during the last season;

(b) the number of persons died recently at Sabarimala;

(c) whether any financial assistance has been provided by the Union Government to the dependents of each deceased;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) As per available information, approximately 3 crores pilgrims visited Sabarimala during the last season.

(b) 53 persons were reported to have died at Sabarimala during the last pilgrimage.

(c) to (f) Financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 50,000/- each from Prime Minister's Relief Fund has been granted to the next of kin of the deceased pilgrims.

Chemical Industry During Ninth Plan

102. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop chemical Industry during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the action plan proposed to be implemented for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) and (b) It has always been the endeavour of Government to assist the development of the chemical industry and this approach will continue during the 9th Five Year Plan period. Industry would have to lay greater emphasis on R&D, conform with the environment policy, pay more attention to quality control and become competitive by reducing costs. In a liberalized economic regime, the Government will have to act as a facilitator to achieve these objectives.

Mid-Day Meal in Schools

103. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched Mid-day Meal Scheme in every State;

(b) if so, the schools covered under this Scheme till 1998 in Maharashtra;

(c) the amount incurred so far; and

(d) the number of schools to be covered in 1999 and the amount likely to be incurred for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The number of schools covered under the Mid-day Meal Scheme in Maharashtra during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is 61,305 and 64,900 respectively. Foodgrains are made available free of cost to States/UTs through Food Corporation of India. This Department reimburses cost of foodgrains to FCI directly. Therefore State-wise allocation of funds is not made under the scheme.