

recently development an equivalent drug in Maharashtra for 'Azathioprine' which can be used as substitute by the Kidney transplant patients as has been reported in the New Time (Hyderabad) of 19.3.1990;

(d) if so, the particulars of the new indigenous drug and whether its efficacy has been tested;

(e) the approximate price at which it will be available in the market; and

(f) the approximate foreign exchange savings annually as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b). "Azathioprine", an essential drug required for patients undergoing kidney transplant is imported in the country. Its sale price is approximately Rs. 6/- per tablet of 50 mg.

(c) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Price Increase in Major Cotton Varieties

10121. SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the percentage rise in the price of major cotton varieties during the last three years vis-a-vis the inflation rate in the same period?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Prices of H-4 & F-414 varieties of cotton increased by 8.5 to 12.5% during 1987-88 cotton year as against inflation rate of 6.3%, by 3.5% to 6.6% during 1988-89 cotton year as against inflation rate of 8.3%, and decreased by 4% to 20.3% from September 89 to April, 1990 as against increase in inflation by 3.1% during the same period.

FP Units in the Country

10122. SHRI D. AMAT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing units working in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to sanction any grant to start such industries in backward area;

(c) whether there is any such industry in any of the tribal areas of the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the units working in tribal area?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d). Food Processing Industries are in the organised, unorganised and cooperative sectors. Information in respect of the food processing industries in different sectors is not being maintained centrally.

In order to encourage the growth and development of the processed food industries several development schemes have been prepared for 1990-91. These schemes also include provision of financial assistance to State Government undertaking/cooperative undertaking etc.

[*Translation*]

Irregularities in Purchase of Levy Rice

10123. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases irregularities in the purchase of levy rice have come to the light during the last five years, as reported in Amar Ujala (Bareilly Edition) dated