

regulations, it is very clear that in respect of any product which is sold to the consumers in India, they will not be allowed to use any foreign brand name. Let them reconsider it; let them review it and decide the policy matter. But the stipulation is already there. On the basis of that, I want to know whether they are looking into these cases. My Hon. friend have given some instances also. May I know whether the Hon. Minister will give a categorical assurance that they will not be allowed to do that ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I have already replied that question. He wanted to extract an assurance from the Government. For that, I can only say that the whole matter is under review. The Government has not taken any final decision. Therefore, I am not in a position to give any assurance.

Steps to increase production of fertilizers

*446. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the present annual production of fertilizers in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to step up production of fertilizers in the country;

(c) whether any negotiation is going on with certain foreign countries to set up joint ventures in the country in this field;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures being taken to increase the fertilizers production in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Production of fertilizers during the

year 1984-85 is about 39.17 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen and 12.63 lakh tonnes of P_2O_5 .

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). No negotiations are presently being held with any foreign Government to set up a joint venture fertilizer plant in India.

(e) A major programme has been under taken to increase the production of fertilizers in the country. As a part of this programme, many new fertilizer plants are already under implementation and some more plants are proposed to be taken up for implementation in a phased manner. Besides, remedial measures have also been initiated/are planned to improve production performance of the fertilizer plants in operation.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Mr. Speaker Sir, In the statement the Hon. Minister has stated that the Government is making all efforts to increase indigenous production of fertiliser to meet the demand of fertiliser in the country. But in spite of all their efforts, may I know whether they are spending large amounts of money on importing fertilisers from abroad, apart from potash which is not being produced in the country. If so, the quantity of fertiliser imported in the Sixth Plan period and the cost of it and the anticipated import in the Seventh Plan period and the cost of it.

What are the efforts made by the Ministry to produce potash, urea and also ammonia required during the 7th Plan ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : It was discussed yesterday and I replied in great detail about the fertiliser position in the country and I have admitted the fact that we have not been able to achieve self-sufficiency so far as fertiliser production is concerned and I have given the figures.

The Hon. Member wanted to know what is going to be the gap between the demand and production for 1985-86. The gap is going to be 15.50 lakh tonnes. By the end of 7th Plan, 1989-90 the gap will be reduced from 15.50 lakh tonnes to 8.03 lakh tonnes.

Government has already taken action to set up new fertiliser units particularly based on natural gas and in the 7th Plan also, the proposal is being finalised to put up more plants. That is why, so far as indigenous fertiliser is concerned, Government is trying its best to become self-sufficient as early as possible and I have made it clear yesterday in my reply to the debate that the question of becoming self-sufficient in the case of phosphate fertiliser and potash does not arise because the country unfortunately is not in a position to have the raw material that is required for producing these fertilisers.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a veteran agriculturist, you must be knowing that our soil is lacking in micro-nutrients which is a must for it. It is because we are not using more organic manure. These micro-nutrients are available in superphosphate and these superphosphate fertilisers are mainly produced by the small-scale industries. For the purpose of producing this superphosphate, sulphuric acid is a must. These small-scale units and small-scale industries have no adequate funds to set up the sulphuric acid plants on their own. So, they are purchasing sulphuric acid from the open market at heavy cost. While subsidising the fertiliser, the Government is giving the same rate to the big plant owners as well as the small-scale industries owners. But the big plant owner are having sulphuric plant on their own and the production cost is much less. These small-scale units are losing and, therefore, many of them are thinking seriously to stop their industries. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Ministry will think of subsidising these small-scale units more than the big scale units ?

May I know from the Hon. Minister whether Government is going to set up some fertiliser plants in a phased manner ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is very long question You should be brief.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Sir, I would like to know whether, for want of supply of electricity, Government is going to set up gas based plants, as the Hon. Minister said yesterday in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I must request all the Hon. Members in the present House that we must try to understand the basic concept of putting a Supplementary. Is it not ? This is going to be a dialogue or a statement or whatever it is, it is not a debate. You are taking all the time. I must also request all the Members that it is not humanly possible to give a chance to every Member daily because there are 544 Members in this House and everybody has a chance and must have a chance to say something.

I cannot accommodate all the Members. It becomes rather embarrassing for me. Some Hon. Members raise their hands daily. It is not possible for me to accommodate them every day. It is rather embarrassing for me.

The Minister may reply to that jumble, if he wants.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I want to reiterate that the Government's policy is to encourage more SSP units in areas where they have no SSP units and the consumption and demand are more or where there are units which are not in a position to meet the demand in full. So far as SSP units are concerned, SSP already contains micro-nutrients like zinc, boron, etc. and SSP is also a fertiliser which is getting subsidy. So far as sulphur is concerned, they are getting sulphur through MMTS at a concessional rate, and so far as potash is concerned, we are not in a position to produce; it is being imported.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI CHANDRA TRIPATHI : I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister regarding the production of fertilisers that he had said yesterday that soda ash was available in sufficient quantity in the country and if there was shortage, it would be met by imports. The factories in the private sector which produced soda ash, from which ammonium nitrate is produced, have closed down. They say that there is shortage of raw material. They require soft coke, coal and salt, but the soft coke and the other raw materials are not available to them, as a

result of which they have declared lay-off in their factories. I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister would take steps to provide them with the raw materials to run their factories and whether Government have taken any steps in this regard ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, the Hon. Member has asked a supplementary question about soda ash whereas the main question relates to fertilisers. Soda ash is not a fertiliser. Soda ash is being produced in our country. When we ask the manufacturers, they say that its production is sufficient to meet the demand for soda ash. Sometimes, a complaint is received that soda ash is not available to the people. That is why soda ash has been kept under O.G.L. When a party is not able to get soda ash, it is made available by importing it.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the progress of the fertiliser plant at Rourkela in Orissa.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I require notice for this. I do not have the information with me.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : In view of the large scale availability of natural gas in Assam and Tripura, may I know whether Government has any plan to set up a gas-based fertiliser plant there which will remove the industrial backwardness of this area and also increase the production ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The Seventh Plan has not yet been finalised. Therefore, it is not possible for me to say how many units are going to come.

Vacancies of Doctors in Medical Corps

*447. **SHRI G.G. SWELL :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the courses for education and training offered by the Army Medical Corps have been fully availed of;

(b) the number of doctors required by the Army Medical Corps in different disciplines and whether all the vacancies are filled, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Doctors in the Army Medical Corps (AMC) include General Duty Doctors and Specialists. The authorised strengths and the shortages are :

	Authorised Strength	Shortage
General Duty		
Doctors	3320	420
Specialists	1635	33

While the total shortage of Doctors in the Army Medical Corps works out to 9.14% of the authorised strength, in the Specialist Disciplines the shortage is only 2%.

(c) The reasons for the shortage are :

- (i) Availability of better prospects in the outside market;
- (ii) Rigours of the Service; and
- (iii) Periodic increase in the authorised strength of the Army Medical Corps against a given volume of recruitment, increasing the shortfall in the concerned year.

In addition, I may inform the Hon Member that every year there are certain resignations agreed to by the Government on compassionate grounds and those numbers are also added on to the number of shortages.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : It is refreshing to hear the Minister to say that all the facilities offered by the Army are being availed of and the shortages are marginal. Still, I would like to know what is the number of seats offered by the Armed