

(a) whether the information in Hindi on network of the National Informatics Centre is being produced;

(b) if so, the extent of percentage to which it is being used;

(c) whether facilities of communications and processing in Hindi are available on all computers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the type of software provided for processing in Hindi; and

(f) the steps taken for the development of technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All Hindi messages forwarded to National Informatics Centre (NIC) by user Departments are transmitted on the NIC computer network (called NICNET) to connected destinations which have installed bilingual terminals.

(c) to (e). The computer and the communication system of the NICNET is capable of transmitting and receiving Hindi or English characters. However, special terminals (bilingual) are required to display the Hindi characters. After technologically proven bilingual terminals became available in the market, NIC as a policy has been only procuring and deploying the bilingual terminals for various Departments of the Government.

(f) The Department of Electronics has been supporting a Division in the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune

for the development of this technology.

[English]

Diversification of Drug Manufacturing Units

*417. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item "Drug Companies Branching Out in New Areas" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated June 24, 1992;

(b) whether several drug companies have stopped making any further investments in the pharmaceutical operations and have started disinvesting in non-drug manufacturing areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether a Pharmaceutical and Drug Industry has now come to a stage where its survival is at stake; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remedy to situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). There is no authentic information in this regard. Some drug companies are reportedly undertaking such diversification in addition to existing activities. This could be due to various factors involving corporate strategies of the companies.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise. One of the objectives of the Drug Policy, 1986 is to encourage investments in the pharmaceutical sector

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and this aspect continues to be a prime consideration in the current review of the Drug Policy.

[Translation]

New Industries in Orissa

*418. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals to set up new industries/factories in Orissa are under consideration of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with their proposed locations; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 18 applications for grant of Letters of Intent are under consideration of the Government. It would be possible to furnish details about proposed locations only after a final decision is taken on the applications.

(c) There are specified time limits for disposal of proposals for Industrial Licences. All efforts are made to dispose of the pending applications within the stipulated time.

INSAT -2A

*419. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether INSAT-2A has been placed in geostationary position;

(b) the details of the systems on INSAT -2A which have since started working;

(c) the additional facilities being created in regard to communication and other areas of public utility;

(d) the expenditure incurred on the INSAT -2A operation; and

(e) the details of the plan to launch such space ships from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All; the systems on-board the INSAT -2A spacecraft are functioning satisfactorily. All the payloads, namely, the 18 C-band transponders, two S-band high power transponders, Very High Resolution Radiometer for taking cloud cover imagery, the data collection platform and the Search and Rescue Payload, have been switched on and have been verified to be working satisfactorily. Detailed characterisation is being carried out and will take about two to three weeks.

(c) Insat-2A will provide additional capacity for long distance telecommunications circuits, national and regional TV networking and capacity for business communications, messaging and data communications.

(d) The total project estimate for INSAT -2A and 2B spacecraft is Rs. 329.94 crores out of which Rs. 63.20 crores is meant for Launch All Risks Insurance of INSAT-2A, B and C spacecrafts and Rs. 110.83 crores for facility establishment. INSAT-2A will be