

prices of drugs by and large at reasonable levels.

The Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals have made comprehensive recommendations on the rationalisation of prices of drugs and medicines. Government is expected to take decision on the recommendations of the Committee shortly.

#### Fertilizer Undertakings and their Production Capacity

349. SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS: be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer undertakings and capacity of production of each;

(b) the number and capacity classified according to use of coal and oil in manufacturing process;

(c) the extent to which shifts in manufacturing process are envisaged in view of dwindling availability of oil at reasonable price; and

(d) salient features of any time bound plan in this regard?

The Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) A statement indicating the names of nitrogenous fertilizer manufacturing units presently in operation, their capacity and the feedstock used is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. LT-339/77].

(b) While there is at present no plant based on coal or fuel oil in operation, two plants based on coal and six plants based on fuel oil as feedstock are under various stages of construction.

(c) and (d). Presently a variety of feedstock like naphtha, lignite, coke, coke-oven gas, electricity and natural gas are being used for the production of nitrogenous fertilizers. A majority of the operating units are, however, based on naphtha as feedstock. It is Government's policy to utilise to the maximum extent gas

that would be available from onshore and offshore sources. It is also Government's policy to permit only to the minimum extent petroleum products as the fertilizer feedstock. Additional plants using coal as feedstock will be considered only after experience is available of the operation of the two plants under construction.

#### Maruti Limited and its Sister-concerns

350. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS: be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Company Law Board or any other Government Agency have enquired into the purchases of shares of Maruti Limited and its sister-concerns or loans given to it by (1) Non-nationalised Banks (2) Public Limited Companies; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). The Company Law Board has not ordered an enquiry under the Companies Act into the purchase of shares by non-nationalised Banks and public limited companies of Maruti Limited and its sister-concerns. It is, however, a fact that under section 372 of the Companies Act, public limited companies are required to obtain the approval of the Central Government in cases where any investment is made by them in the shares of other companies beyond the limits prescribed in the Section. So far the Central Government had been approached for such approval only by J. K. synthetics Limited for investment in shares of Maruti Limited, in which case the approval was granted.

#### O. & N.G.C. Agreement with a Company of France

351. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has entered into an agreement with Compogni Francaise Des Petroles of France to optimise the development of Bombay High; and

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of this agreement including the financial liability to the foreign Company?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):** (a) and (b). In April, 1977 Oil and Natural Gas Commission with the approval of the Government, entered into a four-year agreement with Compagnie Francaise Des Petroles (CFP) of France for Comprehensive consultancy to the ONGC for optimising the development of the Bombay High offshore field in the shortest possible time. As per the agreement, the CFP is to assist the ONGC in data-acquisition, reservoir-engineering, laboratory studies, alternative development plans and enhanced recovery methods etc. The agreement also provides for transfer of technology to ONGC. The remuneration payable to CFP in the matter based on man-years of work, provision of computer services, transferring Computer software including programme models etc. is estimated at US \$17.4 millions net of Indian taxes.

**Proposal from Maharashtra Government for Utilisation of Bombay High Gas**

**352. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has sent a scheme to the Central Government for using the Gas produced from Bombay High for producing electricity; if so what decision has the Central Government taken on this proposal; and

(b) whether Government are planning to bring the gas produced from Bombay High through pipelines to Bombay for domestic consumers or to supply it through cylinders?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):** (a) A proposal for multifuel power generation plant using LSHS and associated gas from Bombay High was received from the Government of Maharashtra. The price at which gas can be supplied is under discussion between ONGC and Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

(b) It has been decided to bring the associated gas from Bombay High to Bombay via Uran by laying sub-sea pipelines. The gas would be fractionated so that the different fractions could be put to appropriate uses. In this connection, it may be stated that LPG would be extracted from the associated gas and supplied to domestic consumers in cylinders. Bombay Gas Company has also submitted a scheme for distribution of gas through its network of pipelines.

**Recruitment of Trained Apprentices of C.L.W.**

**353. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recruitments made in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works at the request of the Private Secretary of the former Railway Minister (Shri Kamalapati Tripathi):

(b) the number of trained apprentices of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works waiting for recruitment after completion of their training (both in clerical and mechanical and electrical); and

(c) whether at present there are any chances to recruit them?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):**

(a) 22 appointments were made on ad-hoc basis.

(b) 253.

(c) Apprentices in clerical categories will be considered for absorption against 50 per cent of the vacancies existing and those anticipated upto