

(b) if so, the details regarding the plan cost of proposed system and the time by when it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b). The ONGC has an existing Satellite Communication System which is proposed to be expanded. The proposed expansion is at the planning stage. It will therefore not be possible at this stage to indicate the cost estimates and time for its commissioning.

Shortage of Eye Drugs

3. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of eye drugs in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove this scarcity?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) In general, there is no shortage of drugs required in the treatment of eye diseases. However, shortage of Pilocarpine Eye Drops required in the treatment of Glaucoma have been reported to this Ministry. This is due to persisting acute shortage of the bulk drug Pilocarpine Nitrate inter-nationally.

(b) The Govt. has taken the following specific steps towards easing the availability of the Pilocarpine Eye Drops:

(1) The major international producers of the bulk drug have been approached for supply of this scarce material and whatever quantity could be procured has been provided to the indigenous producers of these formulations.

(2) The assistance of World Health Organisation has also been sought in procuring the bulk drug and consequently some material is expected to become available through them.

(3) M/s Fairdeal Corporation, the major producer of this formulation is regularly being advised to rush stocks to the affected areas from where inadequate availability is reported.

(4) Import of Pilocarpine Eye Drops has since been permitted under Open General Licence in the Current Import Policy. The availability of the drug is expected to improve shortly.

Demand for Petroleum Products

4. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) the anticipated demand for petroleum products in the country by the end of Seventh Plan period;

(b) whether the indigenous production of crude is expected to meet the growing demands for petroleum products; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to cover the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) About 54 million tonnes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The shortfall is expected to be met by import of crude and petroleum products.

Setting up of Earth Stations for Ensuring Efficient Telecommunication Services

5. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have planned to set up a number of Earth Stations for ensuring efficient telecommunication services with the help of satellite in the past three financial year (1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85) and the current financial year (1985-86);

(b) if so, the details of each telecommunication circle and the name of such earth stations as have already started functioning;

(c) the likely date by which the remaining stations would start functioning; and

(d) the plan for setting up more such earth stations during the Seventh Five Year Plan, circle-wise including the cost in each case?