

(b) whether he is also aware that the design of the Coin Collecting Box is faulty as the coin always gets stuck with the result that neither the called party nor the caller is able to hear each other; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government to effect improvements in the design?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):** (a) Generally the public telephones in the capital city of Delhi are working quite satisfactorily.

(b) As in any other instruments, these coin collecting boxes are also subject to occasional failures in addition to defects arising out of vandalism.

(c) Redesign for effecting improvements is a continuous process in the Department.

**Expansion and Upgradation on Existing Telephone System**

32. **SHRI HARIHAR SOREN:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to give top priority for the expansion and the upgradation of the existing telephone system in the country during the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for this purpose;

(c) the various schemes proposed to be implemented in different States and Union territories to implement the above proposal; and

(d) the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):** (a) Recognising the role of Telecommunications as an important infrastructure, Government has decided to give high priority to its expansion and upgradation in the 7th Plan.

(b) The Ministry of Communications had submitted a draft Plan, envisaging an investment of about Rs. 13 thousand crores

for Telecommunications expansion and upgradation. This draft is still under discussion with the Planning Commission who have indicated that in the context of overall limitations of resources, investment to this extent may not be feasible and the plans may have to be scaled down substantially.

(c) and (d). The schemes in the draft Plan envisage a substantial increase in the telephone and telex service, expansion of STD service, extension of telephone service in rural areas on the one hand and upgradation of the services through replacement of life-expired equipment, automation, construction of cable ducts and use of digital technology for upgradation of the services on the other.

The details of various schemes for different States and union territories will be worked out, once the total level of investment has been finalised.

**Terms of Reference of Medical Experts who drew Priority list of Bulk Drugs**

33. **SHRI SARFARAJ AHMAD:**

**SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:**

**SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:**

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of reference of the medical experts who drew up the Priority List of Bulk Drugs;

(b) whether it is a fact that priority list was not drawn up by the medical experts for the purpose of price control and that the medical experts were told to limit the number of priority drugs upto 100 only;

(c) the consideration and criteria which formed the basis of priority list and the object for which list was drawn; and

(d) the production of each of the bulk drugs and total sales of formulations based on each of the bulk drugs included in the priority list during last three years, year-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY**

AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c). The Medical Experts who were Members of the Steering Committee of the National Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Development Council drew up the priority list bearing in mind the criteria adopted by UNIDO for inclusion of drugs in essential list and drugs in WHO list and the Hathi Committee list. The experts were free to include any drug in the priority list. The preliminary priority list which came to 133 drugs was subsequently abridged by them to 95. The medicines required by large majority of the people for the most, common diseases known, including those required by the National Health Programmes constitute the list. Those drugs were required in the country in abundance and should be made available at all times at regulated and reasonable prices. The consensus of the National Drugs & Pharmaceutical Development Council was that only priority bulk drugs and their formulations should be under price control

(d) Information (to the extent available) will be collected and laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

**Digital Telephone System in Patna Telephone Exchange**

34. SHRI C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether digital telephone system has not been provided in Patna Telephone Exchange which was submerged in flood and since then has been not working satisfactorily; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to instal digital telephone system there soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Digital telephone system has been allotted in replacement of present Patna main telephone exchange which was submerged in flood. The existing exchange is being maintained with sustained maintenance efforts.

(b) The digital telephone system which stands already allotted is expected to be commissioned in about 3 years.

**Effect of concession given to Cement Manufacturers**

35. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY & COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed the cement manufacturers to apportion less as levy quota by an announcement made on June 5 this year;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) to what extent the industry is going to gain in money terms by this concession.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). In the context of the representations received from the Cement Manufacturers' Association to allow escalation on the retention prices of levy cement to compensate for the increase in the cost of inputs, Government had decided to reduce the levy quota from 65% of installed capacity in the case of existing cement factories to 60% of actual production and from 45% of installed capacity in the case of new and sick cement factories to 40% of actual production with effect from 4th June, 1985. Reduction in levy quota as indicated above, was announced by Government in accordance with their policy to contain inflationary trends likely to result if escalation in retention prices of levy cement is allowed and the need to cover the increase in cost of production of cement.

**Setting up of Separate wing in ONGC and oil India for Exploration and Recovery of Natural Gas**

36. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up separate wing in the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India for exploration and recovery of natural gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?