

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

ONGC Order for Manufacture of Rigs and Platforms by Mazagon Dock Ltd.

37. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has placed huge orders with Mazagon Dock Ltd. for the manufacture of rigs and platforms costing several hundred crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the MDL having limited capacity, are passing on these orders to sub-contractors, within and outside the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons for placing such huge order on an establishment having no capacity to meet the orders?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Orders commensurate with the capacity assessed in Mazagon Docks Limited for the manufacture of rigs, platforms, etc., have been placed.

(b) Sub-contracting is an essential part of any industrial activity. It is resorted to only where necessary and cost-effective and in respect of items for which the equipment and services are not available within the country.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b).

Natural Gas Find near Vasai, Bombay

38. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural gas is found in large quantity near Vasai, Bombay; and

(b) if so, the quantity available and the planning of its utilisation and where?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The structure produced gas approximately at the rate of 1.5 to 1.7 lakh cubic metres per day. Further exploratory work is in progress to assess the potential of production from this structure which would determine the future utilisation programme.

Indigenisation of foreign automobile firms collaborating with Indian firms

39. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for indigenisation of foreign firms which have entered into collaboration with Indian firms in automobile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and names of foreign firms to be affected as a result thereof together with their location in India;

(d) whether some foreign firms in Andhra Pradesh are also affected, if so, details thereof; and

(e) the amount of compensation to be paid to such firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir,

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Changes in Drug Policy of 1978

40. SHRI B.V. DESAI:

SHRI C.P. THAKUR:

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

(a) whether he has embarked on a comprehensive review of the Drug Policy of 1978;

(b) if so, the main changes that are likely to be made in the new Drug Policy;

(c) by what time the same is likely to be announced; and