

(d) the main reasons for review of the Drug Policy of 1978?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (d), National Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Development Council have since submitted its reports on the Drug Policy to the Government. Government would take a decision on the changes/modification needed in the Drug Policy keeping in view all the relevant factors and various view points.

Losses Incurred by Public Sector Drug Units

41. SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI :

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public sector drug units incurred losses in 1984-85; (b) if so, the amount of losses incurred; and (c) the measures being taken to arrest such losses and to bring about improvement in their performance ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) (a) and (b) : Latest estimated losses incurred by Public Sector Drug companies during 1984-1985 are as under :

(Rs. in Crores)

1. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	26.28
2. Hindutan Antibiotics Ltd.	4.98
3. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	5.40
4. Bengal Immunity Ltd.	1.99

(c) The losses are due to various factors such as under utilisation of the installed capacity resulting from demand constraints and power/water shortage, technological problems, higher cost of production from basic stage and a product-mix predominantly comprising Category I and II bulk drugs and formulations with lower mark up.

Remedial steps being taken include plugging of loop-holes in Import Policy, which inhibit production and capacity utilisation, ensuring adequate availability of working capital, raw materials and intermediates and attempts to up-grade technology.

Improvement in the Functioning of Calcutta Telephone system

42. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken to improve the functioning of telephone system at Calcutta and the replacement of cross bar exchange;

(b) which are the new areas that are now being considered to come under Calcutta Telephone Jurisdiction during Seventh Plan; and

(c) whether industrially important 24-parganas can be considered for inclusion under Calcutta Telephone jurisdiction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Measures taken to improve the functioning of telephone system at Calcutta is attached. No local crossbar exchange is proposed to be replaced in the near future. A 400C line crossbar Trunk Automatic Exchange is proposed to be replaced by Electronic Exchange.

(b) No new areas are being considered to come under Calcutta telephone jurisdiction during the Seventh Plan.

(c) A major part of the industrially important area of 24 paraganas is already included under Calcutta telephone jurisdiction.

Improvement measuras, long-term and short-term, contemplated to improve the telephone services :

1. Introduction of sophisticated electronic telephone exchanges to avoid problems inherent with electromagnetic switching equipment used hitherto.