

forestry raw material, felling of tender bamboo/reeds is discouraged. The bamboo and reed are accepted at the Mill site on weightment basis after due test of moisture content at the Mill's Laboratory. In case the moisture content is found in excess of the agreed percentage, proportionate deductions are made in order to arrive at equivalent weight of 65% moisture content material.

Oil drilling at Kaikaluru I, II, III Oil Wells

4687. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether drilling at Kaikaluru I was completed, if so, the estimated yield therefrom;

(b) the total amount spent on it as on 1 January, 1986;

(c) the latest stage of the well; and

(d) the progress in respect of Kaikaluru II and Kaikaluru III wells ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (c). Yes, Sir. The well, which on initial testing proved gas bearing, has been temporarily shut till the completion of assessment/delineation of the field through further exploratory drilling.

(b) About Rs. 3 crores.

(d) Kalkalur-II is under testing. Kalkalur-III will be taken up for drilling after testing of Kalkalur-II.

Availability of Ethambutol and other medicines for treatment of T.B. at low prices

4688. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of medicines based on Ethambutol for the treatment of TB patients are very high; and poor TB patients cannot afford to buy them;

(b) whether the price of bulk drug is much lower than the price at which his Ministry has fixed the prices of these medicines;

(c) whether his Ministry is giving the highest mark-up allowed; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to make these medicines available at cheap prices and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) The prices of Ethambutol formulations have been statutorily fixed under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

(b) Manufacturers are free to sell the bulk drug at prices not exceeding the prices fixed by the Government.

(c) Markup on Ethambutol formulations has been allowed in accordance with the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

(d) Ethambutol formulations are already available at fair and reasonable prices fixed under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

Production of bulk drugs and formulations by Companies which got Registration under delicensing scheme

4689. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of companies which obtained registration under delicensing scheme for production of bulk drugs and formulations have started the production of formulations without producing the bulk drugs;

(b) if so, whether such instances have come to the notice of his Ministry;

(c) whether it is also a fact that those companies were granted permission for manufacture of formulations based on their own production of bulk drugs from basic stages; and