

drugs which have reportedly come to a halt since February 28, 1986 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Ministry of Finance have since clarified that no excise duty is to be levied on the bulk drugs.

Shortage of levy cement in rural areas

6623. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have introduced a graded formulae of levy obligation for the cement industry linked to its capacity utilisation;

(b) if so, its broad features;

(c) whether there is acute shortage of levy cement particularly in the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the State quota of levy cement is maintained by the cement manufacturing units for ready availability of the levy cement to the poor and needy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). With a view to encourage the Cement Industry to improve capacity utilisation and its productivity, the level of levy obligation has been reduced in relation to production beyond 100% licensed capacity and upto 125% thereof *w.e.f.* 1.3.86. In regard to old units (those which commenced production prior to 1.1.82) the levy obligation would be 60% of actual production upto 100% of licensed capacity and 45% of actual production beyond 100% and upto 125%. In the case of new units (those which commenced production after 1.1.82) and sick units, the levy obligation would be 40% of their actual production upto 100% of licensed capacity and it would be 30% of actual production beyond 100% and upto 125%.

(c) Though general reports of short supply of levy cement, in relation to alloca-

tion made, have been received from some of the States, no specific report of shortage in rural areas has been received. Supplies of levy cement District-wise etc., including rural areas, are monitored by the State Governments.

(d) While quarterly bulk allocations of levy cement are made to each State, further re-allocation to various categories is made by the State Governments. A constant watch is kept on Cement manufacturing units to ensure that they supply levy cement, as per their obligation.

Modernisation of Machine Tools Industry

6624. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the likely impact of Scheme for modernisation of machine tool industry in both the private and public sector units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Machine tool industry is one with long gestation period. Therefore, facilities given under different programmes for modernisation and upgradation of technology in the recent past will start showing discernible impact only in the years to come. It is difficult to quantify the likely impact at this stage.

Production of Crude, Gas and Allocation made for Oil Exploration

6625. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated production of crude/gas in Andaman Island, Cauvery Basin and all other areas where oil drilling is in progress in the next three years;

(b) the estimated investment required for the exploration and production of reserves in different parts of the country in the next three years; and

(c) the amount sanctioned against the estimated demands in different sectors of the country ?