

Increase in Prices of Multi-Vitamins

6728. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have approved an increase in the prices of multi-vitamins manufactured by Pfizer, Sandoz, Abbot Laboratories, Parke Davis and a few other procedures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for allowing such an increase when the new drug policy is expected to be announced shortly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) On reviewing the representations, the price of 52 packs of multivitamin formulations, produced by M/s. Pfizer Limited, Sandoz India Ltd. and M/s. Abbott Laboratories have recently been revised under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1979.

(b) As a result of this revision, the prices of seven packs have gone up, there is no change in the case of one pack and the prices of remaining 44 packs have been reduced over the prices which the three manufacturers were enjoying earlier.

(c) The representations of the three manufacturers were required to be reviewed in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1979 and the judgements of the Bombay High Court.

Proposal from Orissa to Increase Royalty on Coal

6729. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether while revising the rate of coal, no due consideration is paid to raise the royalty to States; and

(b) whether Government are examining fix to increase royalty on coal while revising the price of coal on *ad valorem* basis and details of proposals if any received from States particularly from Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Coal prices are revised by the Central Government from to time on the basis of cost study keeping in view the various factors like increase in the cost of inputs, increase in wages, increase in the incidence of depreciation and interest charges etc. and are notified under the Colliery Control Order, 1945, as continued in force by section 16 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The royalty on coal is revised by the Central Government under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. Under the existing provision no enhancement in the rates of royalty, however, can take place in respect of any mineral including coal, more than once during any period of four years.

To consider the question of further revision of royalty rate on coal, a Study Group was constituted in November, 1984. This Group after considering the views/proposals of various States including Orissa, submitted its report. No decision has been taken by the Central Government.

Supply of Excavators to Neyveli Lignite Corporation by M.A.N., West Germany

6730. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4645 on 1st April 1986 regarding supply of defective bucket wheel excavators by M.A.N., West Germany to Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. and state :

(a) the composition of the committee which conducted enquiry into the accident to one of the bucket wheel excavators along with salient features of its report;

(b) the date of actual delivery of the excavators to Neyveli Lignite Corporation and when the same were delivered as per contract;

(c) whether there was enough delay in supplying the equipments beyond the contemplated date in the contract;

(d) the exact loss in terms of money, and time for the project and whether the same has been made good of by the M.A.N. West Germany;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) further action being contemplated by Neyveli Lignite Corporation against the M.A.N., West Germany ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The composition of the NLC committee was as follows :

Director (Mines)

General Manager (Mine II)

Chief Safety Officer

Consultant (Industrial Relation)

The salient feature of the report was that adequate precautions were not taken before removing the welds on one of the thrust plates in the bucket wheel excavator.

(b) to (f). As per contract entered into with M/s M.A.N., West Germany Bucket Wheel Excavators I and II were to be delivered in November 1981 and June 1982 but the actual delivery was made in April 1983 and February 1984 resulting in slippage of 17 months and 20 months respectively.

Bank guarantees towards liquidated damages had been obtained from M.A.N. for supply and erection supervision. Similarly bank guarantee had also been obtained from the Indian collaborator of M.A.N. The exact loss, if any, to the project is to be worked out and a decision would be taken thereafter.

Construction of lines between Neyveli Salem and Neyveli-Red-Hills

6731. DR. G.S. BASAVARAJU : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether to evacuate power being generated from the Second Thermal Power Station to the Southern grid, a construction of 400 KV lines between Neyveli-Salem and Neyveli-Red Hills with switching Stations was undertaken in the year 1983;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and progress made thereunder;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such high-rated power transmission was conceived with the expansion programme for second mine and second thermal power stations; and

(d) if so, the progress made or achieved in the same during the year 1984, 1985 and till now in 1986 ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). The construction of Neyveli-Salem and Neyveli-Sriperambudur single circuit lines alongwith their associated switching stations was approved in February, 1983 for evacuation of power from Stage-I of Power House No. 2 associated with Second Mine Cut at Neyveli. The completion of Neyveli-Salem line was targetted for December, 1986 and Neyveli-Sriperambudur line in March, 1987.

In respect of Neyveli-Salem line, erection of 274 towers out of 484 towers and stringing of 30 kilometers out of 175 kilometers was completed upto February, 1986. On the Neyveli-Sriperambudur line, erection of 105 towers out of 515 towers was completed upto February, 1986. Stringing work on this line has not started so far.

While the work on control room building and foundations of Sriperambudur switching station is in progress, the land acquisition proceedings in respect of Salem switching station are in progress. Orders for switch-gears, control and relay panels, line reactors for both the stations have already been placed.

Harassment to Female Workers in E.C.L. and B.C.C.L.

6732. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of female workers in Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited in 1975, 1980 and 1985, facts in detail with area-wise break-up;

(b) whether there is open discrimination against the female employees by the Coal Companies violating the Constitution