

[English]

**Extension to top Executives in Public Enterprises**

1618. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there will be no automatic extension of term of top Executives in public sector enterprises as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated 28 June, 1986 ; and

(b) whether this policy applies to all other top positions in Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (PROF. K.K. TEWARY) :

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Incumbents of top positions in the Government are normally appointed on tenure basis. However, their performance is kept under review and they can be prematurely reverted to their parent Cadres.

**Availability of Phones**

1619. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rise in availability of phones from 9 to 12 per cent has been achieved for the world as a whole ;

(b) if so, the position in India at present and what are the projections for 2001 A.D. ; and

(c) whether in view of lower investments per phone in the modern electronic phone exchanges, including low over-head cost of staff, building and manpower, the tempo of providing phone connections will be accelerated substantially, specially in rural industrial areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :

(a) The world density of Telephones had reached 11.3 per 100 population in 1981.

(b) The position in India as on 31.3.86 is 0.529 telephones per 100 population. The demand projections for year 2001 A.D. is expected to be around 330 lakh DELS. If this demand is met this would correspond to a density of 3.3 telephones per 100 population in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir subject to the availability of resources.

**Costly Drugs manufactured by Multinational Drug Companies**

1620. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the multinational drug companies in the country are manufacturing very costly drugs which the poor masses in the country are unable to afford ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and the remedial steps taken or being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :  
(a) and (b). Prices of over 75% of the medicines are statutorily controlled under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979. The prices are fixed based on detailed scrutiny of the cost structure by Experts. This ensures that price controlled medicine are only sold at the fair prices fixed by the Government. The range of medicines produced in the country by all the companies including multinational companies is quite large.

**Use of latest technology in their performance by O.I.L. and O.N.G.C.**

1621. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Advisory Board on Energy (ABE) has warned the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited not only to improve their performance but also to ensure about latest