

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT):** (a) and (b). One Soviet seismic party is at present conducting seismic survey work in the Ariyalur-Pondicherry depression area in Cauvery basin. The results of this work will be known after the data is processed and interpreted.

(c) The drilling of the first well by the Soviet agency is expected to be started in March 1987.

**Uniform power rates in different regions**

**4476. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is Government's policy to charge uniform power rates in different regions of the country where power is produced by Thermal Power Stations; and

(b) if so, whether it will not be against the interest of other thermal power generating Corporations like Neyveli Lignite Corporation whose cost of power production has gone up in the recent past ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI):** (a) There is no such policy at present.

(b) Does not arise.

**Marketing of bicycles of Cycle Corporation of India**

**4477. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been able to market 30,000 bicycles in the stock of Cycle Corporation of India Limited as on 30 March, 1986;

(b) the if not reasons thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to export the bicycles to reduce the stock ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) :** (a) Presently, there are only 20,000 bicycles in the stock of the Cycle Corporation of India.

(b) Lack of demand for the cycles in stock is the main reason.

(c) The Company is making efforts to export the Cycles.

**Project to manufacture PTA at Madras Refineries Ltd.**

**4478. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have cleared the project to manufacture PTA with help from the private sector at Madras Refineries Ltd.

(b) if so, whether the expansion programme at the Aromatics Complex in MRL has been taken up; and

(c) the particulars of the private organisation that has been considered by Government to tie up with MRL ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH):** (a) to (c). The Madras Refineries Limited, a central public sector company has submitted an application for issue of an industrial licence for production of PTA in Tehsil Manali, District Chingleput (Tamil Nadu). Such applications for Industrial licence are considered on merits.

**Technological upgradation of important Industries**

**4479. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that wide productivity gaps have emerged between the Indian Industry *vis-a-vis* the industries in developed countries due to lack of timely modernisation of industry; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to bridge the gap by technological upgradation of important industries like cement, steel, fertilizers, coal, textiles, jute etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). With a view to improving productivity through modernisation and technological upgradation in industry and to bridge the productivity gap between the Indian industry and in the industries in developed countries, speedier imports of equipment, technology, foreign consultancy, drawings and designs are allowed under the scheme of Technical Development Fund. A simplified procedure for recognition of increase in capacity over the licensed capacity, on account of modernisation/replacement/renovation upto 49 per cent of the licensed capacity, without any locational constraints, has been introduced.

#### Relaxations to Industries

4480. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of relaxations have been granted to a number of industries recently;

(b) if so, what are these relaxations and objective thereof;

(c) whether Government have noticed any improvement in production, specially of consumer goods, due to these relaxations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNA-

CHALAM) : (a) and (b). With a view to permitting rapid industrial growth in the country, a number of measures towards liberalisation of Industrial Policy and procedures have been taken. These include broad banding in 30 selected groups of industries, delicensing in 27 broad categories of industries, and 82 bulk drugs and related formulations, raising the threshold limit of MRTP companies from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 100 crores, a liberalised scheme of re endorsement of capacity, a simplified procedure for recognition of modernisation/replacement/renovation of plant and machinery, a revision of Appendix-I list of industries, reduction in export obligation in regard to industries set up in centrally declared backward areas, re endorsement of capacity with reference to minimum economic scales of capacity, encouraging export production by exemption from licensing for capacities set up in excess of the licensed capacity etc.

(c) and (d). The overall index of industrial production has registered a growth of 5 per cent during April-July, 1986 over that during the corresponding period of 1985. The growth for the above period in respect of consumer goods has been 2.6 per cent.

#### Price structure of drugs

4481. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government feel that existing price structure of drugs has resulted in investment moving away from more essential to less important drugs as reported in the Economic Times of November 9, 1986; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to reverse this trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The entire scheme of pricing of Drugs and the related issues are under consideration of the Government.