

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The candidacy of particular countries for permanent membership of the Security Council is not being discussed at the present stage by the U.N. General Assembly's Working Group on "Question of Equitable Representation on and increase in the Membership of the Security Council". The question of seeking China's support for permanent membership of the Security Council for India has not therefore arisen.

[English]

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh

796. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all the telephone exchanges in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have been modernised;
- (b) if not, the number of exchanges modernised so far;
- (c) the number of telephone exchanges in the State that are yet to be modernised;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the modernisation of exchanges in rural areas is being delayed; and
- (e) the time by which all the exchanges are likely to be modernised in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir. The modernisation programme is under way.

(b) Exchanges modernised in I Maharashtra = 1838
II Andhra Pradesh = 1154

(c) Exchanges yet to be modernised in (I) Maharashtra = 214, (II) Andhra Pradesh = 945

(d) No, Sir.

(e) As per the 8th Plan objective, all small capacity exchanges and all medium capacity exchanges of Line Finder type will be modernised by March 1997 subject to availability of funds. Other Exchanges will be modernised as and when they have lived their useful life.

Hindustan Insecticides Limited

797. SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISRA:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL) have shut-down operation in all its DDT plants and are planning to lay off 1,500 of its 2,600 workers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating the use of expensive synthetic pyrethroids by claiming dramatic results, which is five times costlier than DDT and also run the risk of vector resistance within a shorter time span;

(d) whether out break of malaria in Rajasthan and

other parts of the country is due to non-supply of DDT; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The efficacy of the vector control measures is assessed periodically and newer insecticides introduced on the specific advice of experts.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(Translation)

Memorandum from Homoeopathic Medicine Sellers

798. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any memorandum from Homoeopathic medicine sellers, consumers and medical practitioners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) A few representations have been received from different associations requesting the Government of India to withdraw the Gazette Notification GSR No. 108(E) dated 22nd February, 1994, wherein the Government have amended the existing Rule 106(A) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 and Rule 106(B) has been added. Through the above amendment the Government have introduced uniformity in the packing size of various homoeopathic medicines containing ethyl alcohol more than 12% v/v.

(c) The matter is sub-judice since some writ petitions are still pending in different High Courts.

(English)

Allocation of funds for N.H. 8

799. DR. K. D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of toll collected on bridges in Gujarat during the last three years for utilization on National Highway works in the State;

(b) whether the said amount has been allocated to the State Government for the above purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which that amount is likely to be allocated and released;

(e) whether there is any proposal to allocate the special funds for the Ahmedabad-Bombay Section of