

(a) whether the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited has announced reduction in bulk Penicillin prices due to higher efficiency obtained by them; and

(b) if so, the extent of reduction proposed to be made and when it will be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Vayudoot Services to Calicut, Kerala

5. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI P.A. ANTONY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the stations which are connected by Vayudoot service to Calicut in Kerala; and

(b) whether there are any proposals to increase the number of stations connecting Calicut by Vayudoot?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Calicut is at present airlinked with Madras, Bangalore, Trivandrum and Cochin.

(b) No, Sir.

Proposal to Privatise Loss Making Public Sector Units

6. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARSIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector units in the country which are running at loss;

(b) whether Government contemplate to privatise such public sector units; and

(c) if so, the policy of Government in this

regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) There were 102 Central Public Sector Enterprises which incurred net loss after tax during 1987-88.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

British Assistance for Rihand Super Thermal Power Project

7. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur): Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an offer has been made by Britain to undertake work on second phase of Rihand Super Thermal Power Project and repairs of all old hydro-power stations; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). One of the bids received for the Rihand Super Thermal Power Station is from a British Consortium which is currently being evaluated. The project would take six years to complete.

The Government of U.K. have separately offered assistance for preparing feasibility studies on the uprating and refurbishing of some hydro-electric power plants in India. The proposal has been examined and the views of the Government of India have been communicated to the Government of U.K.

[*English*]

Expenditure by Air India on Refurbishing Old Aircraft "Rajendra Chola"

8. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: