

(c) The production in the overall automobile sector during the period 1989-90 (April-December) does not show any decline compared to production in the corresponding period in the year 1988. However, there has been a marginal decline in the production of light commercial vehicles, motorcycles and mopeds during this periods.

Electrification of Railway Lines

137. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes under consideration for electrification of important railway lines which have not been electrified so far; and

(b) when these programmes are expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Planning Commission had set up a Committee to review the future programme of electrification on Indian Railways. The report of the Committee has recently been submitted and is under examination of the Planning Commission.

Committee to Review Drug Policy

138. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI YASHWANTRAOPATIL:
SHRI A. ASOKARAJ:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been re-

ceived by his Ministry recently about non-availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices, entry of spurious drugs at the increase scale in the market and exploitation of public by the drug manufacturing companies;

(b) if so, whether Government have set up a committee to take a fresh look at the Drug Policy so as to ensure adequate supply of quality drugs to people at reasonable prices and making available these drugs at all Government hospitals;

(c) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the committee; and

(d) the date by which the review of the Drug Policy is likely to be completed and new policy announced?

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

(b) and (d). Government has constituted a Standing Committee to consider all the matters connected with the review of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 and the representations made on various policy issues concerning DPCO, 1987 including inclusion/exclusion of drugs in the Scheduled categories. This is a permanent Committee which will consider representations received from time to time on the subject and will make its recommendations to the Government for its consideration. The Committee will meet once in three months or as and when required. No Committee for the review of drug policy has been appointed.

(c) The requisite information is given in the Statement below:-

STATEMENT

It has been decided to constitute a Standing Committee to consider all matters connected with review of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 and the representations made on various policy issues concerning DPCO, 1987, including inclusion/exclusion of drugs in the Scheduled categories. The Committee will have the following Members:-

1.	Secretary (Chemicals & Petrochemicals)	— Chairman
2.	Secretary, Deptt. of Bio-Technology	—Member
3.	Additional Secretary (Health) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	— Member
4.	Director General of Health Services, New Delhi	— Member
5.	Shri M.S. Grover, Deputy Director General (Chemicals), Directorate General of Technical Development.	— Member
6.	Shri S.N. Chattopadhyay, Member (Finance), Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices.	Member
7.	Shri N. Sen. Adviser (G) Council of Scientific & Industrial Research.	Member
8.	Director, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad	Member
9.	Director, Central Drugs Research Institute, Lucknow	Member
10.	Joint Secretary (PI), Deptt. of Chemicals & Petro-Chemicals	Member
11.	Adviser (PI)/Adviser (Chemicals) Deptt. of Chemicals & Petro-Chemicals	Member
12.	Director (PI), Deptt. of Chemicals & Petro-Chemical	Member/ Convener

2. The Standing Committee will be assisted by three Expert Groups.

3. The Expert Groups will examine all the issues concerning DPCO, 1987 and the rep-

resentations received thereon. The reports of the Expert Groups on various issues will then be brought before the Standing Committee for consideration and making a final recommendations.

4. The Expert Groups and the Standing Committee will meet once in three months or as and when required. The Secretarial assistance for them will be provided by the Convenors from the Deptt. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals.

Review of Industrial Licensing Policy

139. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the industrial licensing policy with a view to simplifying procedures and cutting delays;

(b) if so, whether any studies have been undertaken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the likely date by which the changes would be effected?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The industrial licensing policy is presently being reviewed with a view to simplifying procedures and cutting delays. Changes in the policy will be effected on completion of the review.

Autonomy Public Sector Enterprises

140. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI A. ASOKARAJ:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reduce the number of guidelines issued by the Bureau of Public Enterprises to provide greater autonomy to public sector enterprises;

(b) if so, the number of existing guideline issued by the Bureau of Public Enterprises and the number proposed to be deleted;

(c) the areas of the spheres to which the guidelines are proposed to be confined;

(d) whether the principle of parliamentary accountability will be kept in view before the guidelines are finalised;

(e) whether Government have undertaken any analytical study in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bureau of Public Enterprises has so far communicated approximately 804 Guidelines by means of letters, O.Ms etc to public enterprises. It is proposed to retain as mandatory Guidelines only the barest minimum.

(c) to (f). The process of review of BPE guidelines was initiated in August, 1987 with the recommendation of Commission on Economy, Efficiency, Productivity and Exports. It was recommended by the Commission that barring a few cases where prior approval of the Government would be needed by the Boards of Public Enterprises, in rest the decisions should be left with the Board of Directors of Public Undertakings.

To re-examine these guidelines a Committee of the Financial Advisers was constituted. After considering the recommendations of the Committee of Financial Advisers it was further examined by a small group of Joint Secretaries from Ministries which were involved in production activities.

The guidelines which are proposed to be mandatory cover areas i) reservation of posts to SCs/STs etc. (ii) common account-