

[Translation]

**Gas Based Industries in Maharashtra**

3309. SHRIMATIKESHARBAISONAJI KSHIRSAGAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas based industries in Maharashtra;

(b) whether there is any proposal for setting up more gas based industries in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Allocations of gas have been made to 18 units located in Maharashtra.

(b) and (c). While requests have been received from time to time, considering the availability of gas and the allocations already made, further allocation of gas is not feasible for the present.

**Kala-Azar**

3310. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to Bihar for prevention and treatment of Kala-Azar during 1992; and

(b) the amount utilized by the Bihar Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Drugs and insecticides valued of Rs. 19.91 crores were

provided to Bihar in the year 1992.

(b) As per available reports supplies valued at Rs. 16.31 crores were utilised during this period.

[English]

**Drugs for Aids**

3311. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether researchers have found in laboratory tests that combination of drugs can stop the deadly AIDS virus from replication and spreading to other cells; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for production of these drugs?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, a group of Scientists at the General Hospital Boston have developed an approach known as convergent combination therapy which aims at attacking the virus enzyme called reverse transcriptase. This enzyme is essential for its replication. This line of treatment is still in experimental stage.

Drugs Controller (India) had permitted M/s. Cipla to manufacture and market AZT agidothy medicine. There are no requests from indigenous manufacturers to take up the manufacture of either DDC (dideoctyridine) and DDI (dideoctyinosine).

**Medical Collages**

3312. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government and