

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c) The prices of most of the medicines including life saving medicines are regulated under the provisions of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1979. Such regulation ensures their availability at fair and reasonable prices,

Government have not yet taken any decision to amend the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1979,

[*Translation*]

Setting up of cement factories in H.P.

2211. **SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI** : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of licences issued for setting up cement factories in Himachal Pradesh during the last 15 years;

(b) the area of land for which leases or ownership rights were granted for mining limestone; and

(c) the names of persons and the places leased with the approval of Union Government during the last five years for mining of limestone in that State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) In addition to 3 Industrial Licences, 6 letters of intent and 15 registrations with the Directorate General of Technical Development have been granted for setting up cement plants including white cement plants in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c) While granting Industrial Licences/Letters of Intent/Registration with Directorate General of Technical Development for setting up cement plants, availability of the main raw material viz. Limestone on a sustained basis is invariably taken into account. The applicants, however, make their own arrangements with the State Governments concerned for procurement of this raw material as in the case of other raw

materials. Precise details such as the area of land for which leases/ownership rights are granted, the names of persons and the places leased etc. are available with the State Governments concerned and are not, therefore, centrally maintained.

[*English*]

Setting up of Coir Industries in Karnataka in Public Sector

2212. **SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER** ; Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka is the best place for setting up of Coir industries in public sector in view of the availability of raw materials in plenty; and

(b) if so, the action taken to establish coir industries in public sector in Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Karnataka is the third largest coconut producing State in the country with good potential for the development of coir industry. Programmes have been drawn up for the development of coir industry during VII Plan period in all Coir producing States including Karnataka. There is no proposal to set up Coir Units in the public sector.

Separate Postal Division for Kalahandi District in Orissa

2213. **SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK** : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Kalahandi District in Orissa fulfills all the pre-conditions to justify opening of a Postal Division; and

(b) if so, the time by which Government propose to establish a separate Postal Division for this backward district of Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir,