

the unit. M/s PDIL have, after end to end survey, suggested capital additions/improvements/debottlenecking. and renovating schemes which are being implemented. Industrial relations problems are regularly discussed with recognised and registered unions.

[English]

Modification of laws relating to various religions

3164. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to modify the laws relating to various religions in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ) : (a) No sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Losses suffered by drug manufacturing companies due to diversification

3165. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the important drug manufacturing companies have been compelled to diversify as they are sustaining heavy losses on their pharmaceutical products;

(b) whether as a result of this, the production of important drugs in the country has suffered; and

(c) whether Government propose to undertake an indepth study of the financial problems of these companies so that they are not forced to diversify and people do not suffer due to lack of essential drugs ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Diversification, if any, is as a result of the corporate policy of the individual companies.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of Pressure Regulators from Danish Firm

3166. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has decided to import pressure regulators from a Danish firm; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the context of the conversion of LPG cylinders from the system of 'F' type valves and pressure regulators to the self-closing system, for meeting the shortfall in the indigenous availability of pressure regulators and with a view to standardising the design, pressure regulators and free technology are being imported from Denmark.

Setting up of Automatic Telephone Exchange in Tirupati

3167. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are microwave system failures at Tirupati;

(b) if so, the corrective steps proposed;

(c) whether there is any proposal to start an automatic trunk telephone exchange at Tirupati;

(d) whether foundation stones for this trunk exchange was laid by the present Prime Minister; and

(e) whether there has been inordinate delay in setting up the exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) There has been no equipment failure in the recent

past. However, on occasions, system has shown failure due to propagation conditions.

(b) Low noise front-end amplifiers have been ordered for improving the performance of the system during adverse propagation conditions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Foundation stone was laid by Shri Rajiv Gandhi for building for local exchange (and not trunk automatic exchange).

(e) No, Sir. The building construction is expected to start shortly. The installation of exchange equipment is likely to commence in 1986-87.

Lowering of Voting Age for Elections

3168. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the States have lowered the voting age to 18 years for the purpose of local bodies elections;

(b) if so, which are these States;

(c) whether Government propose to lower the voting age to 18 years; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ) : (a) and (b). According to information obtained from all the State Governments, in connection with fulfilment of an assurance in respect of Lok Sabha Un-Starred Question No. 3863 dated 20th March, 1984 only eleven State Governments have reduced the voting age to 18 years for election to Local Bodies/Panchayat/Municipalities etc. A Statement showing the names of these State is attached.

(c) and (d). There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

Statement

Statement showing the names of the States which have reduced the age of voting for elections to Local Bodies Panchayat/Municipalities etc.

Name of the State.	Age reduced for elections to Panchayat and Municipal Bodies.
1. Andhra Pradesh.	Local Bodies.
2. Madhya Pradesh.	Local Bodies.
3. Tamil Nadu.	Local Bodies.
4. Karnataka.	Local Bodies.
5. Himachal Pradesh.	Local Bodies.
6. Tripura.	Municipality.
7. West Bengal.	Municipalities and Calcutta Corporation.
8. Uttar Pradesh.	Urban Local Bodies.
9. Gujarat.	Panchayats.
10. Bihar.	Panchayats.
11. Kerala.	(Municipalities/Corporations). Local Bodies.