

(a) whether Lahaul tribal area in Himachal Pradesh remains cut off from rest of the country due to heavy snowfall over the Rohtang Pass, for 6-7 months in a year;

(b) whether keeping in view the human problems and strategic importance of the area, Government propose to construct a tunnel from Manali side connecting Lahaul Valley with the rest of the State ; and

(c) if so, action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) The trafficability of Manali-Leh road via Lahaul-Spiti Valley is restricted on account of the snow-fall and avalanche at Rohtang and other Passes.

(b) and (c) Pre-feasibility studies related to the construction of a tunnel at Rohtang Pass are being conducted by various technical organisations.

Shortage of life saving drug "Persentine in Delhi

3286. **SHRI SODE RAMAIAH :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was shortage of a life saving drug "Persentine" in the capital recently ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that this drug is produced by a multinational drug firm and they have cut short the production after the price was reduced recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken by Government in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (d) Reports of inadequate availability of 'Persantin' in the capital have been received in this Ministry. However, equivalent formulations of this drug manufactured by other companies are reportedly available.

Persantin is formulated in this country by M/s. German Remedies. Consequent on substantial reduction in c.i.f. price of imported Dipyradamol, the bulk drug which goes into the production of this formula-

tion, the price of Persantin was reduced. M/s. German Remedies filed a review under the provisions of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1979 that the revised prices was unremunerative, Government after due consideration have rejected the review application.

New Televised Telephone System

3287. **SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fast developing technology in communication, televised telephone system has come into existence ;

(b) whether Government are thinking of doing away with age old underground cable system and replace it by televised telephone system ; and

(c) the time by which televised telephone system will be put in operation in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c) Televised Telephone system commonly known as picture phone is still under trials phase even in developed countries. The introduction of this type of telephone requires establishment of a highly expensive and separate broad band network requiring large investments with little added commercial value. Therefore, it is too premature for India to venture on provision of Televised Telephone System, at present.

Sale of Molasses to Kerala

3288. **SHRI NARSING RAO SURYA-WANSHI :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka State was considered as a surplus State in rectified spirit/industrial alcohol :

(b) if so, whether bulk of the molasses was recently sold out/given to Kerala State ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) At the time of Central Molasses Board meeting held on 16.3.85