

IRDPs Neglect Energy Sector

4813. SHRI NARSING SURYAWAN-SHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Integrated Rural Development Programmes (IRDP) of South Asian Countries currently in vogue with their primary focus on agriculture pay "little regard" to energy as claimed in a study jointly sponsored by FAO, EEC and World Bank; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is conscious of the need for an integrated approach towards implementation of programmes of Energy and Rural Development in the country. The nodal departments of the Government dealing with Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Rural Development are inter-acting to further strengthen the linkages between the programme of Rural Development and Energy.

Soviet Offer for New Power Projects

4814. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Union has offered assistance for new thermal and hydro-power projects;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the Soviet offer and identified projects for cooperation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether

any agreement in this regard has been signed and the number of power plants that will be set up with the help of Soviet Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) In the Eighth Meeting of the Indo-Soviet Working Group on Power held in Moscow in October, 1987, both sides recognised that prospects exists in respect of enlarging cooperation in the construction of new thermal/hydro power stations and transmission and distribution systems. The Soviet side indicated their interest in extending assistance, on mutually acceptable terms and conditions, for new projects of an aggregate capacity of about 3000 MW on which work could start before March, 1990. Specific projects will be identified keeping in view, inter-alia, the regional power requirements and other relevant techno-economic considerations.

In terms of the Protocol concluded between the two Governments in November, 1987, Soviet assistance will also be available in the setting up of a thermal power station of an installed capacity of 840 MW.

Foreign tie-ups in leather industry

4815. KUMARI D.K. THARA DEVI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign tie-ups that have been approved by Government in the leather industry; and

(b) what will be the impact of these tie-ups on the domestic leather industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and

(b) The Government have approved six foreign tie-ups in the leather industry since 1.1.1986. The tie-ups are approved according to the existing policy of the Government. These tie-ups are expected to lead to technological upgradation and greater exports.

Increase in Trunk Call Rates

4816. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has increased the rate of trunk call charges by 50%; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The trunk call rates were revised with effect from 1.12.1986. The revised rates are applicable for the whole country including Bombay and Delhi Telephone systems under the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam.

(b) The revision of trunk call rates was necessary to meet the increased cost of operation and maintenance.

Change in Import Policy of Drugs required for Treatment of Asthma

4817. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry recommended for change of import policy of two drugs required for treatment of Asthma;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the prices of these drugs have gone up four times after the change of policy; and

(c) if so, the names of those drugs, earlier price and present price after change

in policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Taking into consideration all the relevant factors, it was decided to shift the Imports of Aminophylline and Theophylline to Appendix-III of the Import Policy. However, the matter is being reviewed in the context of the new Import-Export Policy.

(b) and (c) No prices were fixed for Aminophylline and Theophylline under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

Increase in Trade Margins on Medicines

4818. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI:
SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has increased the trade margins on medicines;

(b) if so, what was the earlier margin and what is the revised one; and

(c) what is the basis of such increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The required details are given in the statement below.

(c) The decision to revise the trade margin has been taken keeping in view the increase in the Maximum Allowable Post Manufacturing Expenses and representations received from all concerned.