

TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). No, Sir. According to the new policy guidelines issued for licensing during the Seventh Five Year Plan, preference for establishment of new sugar factories shall be given to the Cooperative Sector followed by Public Sector. In areas where proposals from these two Sectors are not received, the proposals from the Private Sector would be considered.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

**Working Capital Lying Idle in Public Sector Companies**

4837. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the names of the Public Sector Companies in which the working capital of about Rs. 1000 crores is lying idle and the details of the working capital lying idle in each of these Companies?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO): The Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India (ICWAI) recently made a study on working capital management in respect of seventeen select public sector undertakings. The names of these public sector undertaking are given in the statement below. This study of the ICWAI is under consideration in consultation with the concerned public sector undertakings.

**STATEMENT**

Sl. No.	Name of the public Sector Enterprise
1	2
1.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.
2.	Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.

- | 1   | 2                                  |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| 3.  | Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.        |
| 4.  | Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.   |
| 5.  | Eastern Coalfields Ltd.            |
| 6.  | Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd.             |
| 7.  | Oil and Natural Gas Commission.    |
| 8.  | Oil India Ltd.                     |
| 9.  | Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.   |
| 10. | Madras Fertilizers Ltd.            |
| 11. | Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.      |
| 12. | State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd. |
| 13. | Indian Airlines.                   |
| 14. | Delhi Transport Corporation.       |
| 15. | Shipping Corpn. of India Ltd.      |
| 16. | Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.           |
| 17. | H.M.T. Ltd.                        |

(Translations)

**Import of Telephone Equipment**

4838. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited propose to import some telephone equipment from abroad;

(b) if so, whether the aforesaid equipment are available in the country itself at lower prices; and

(c) if so, the justification for importing them and the amount of foreign exchange likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes. Sir, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam is intending to import only automatic message accounting equipment for Delhi Telephone system.

(b) The aforesaid equipment is not available in the country. Indigenous equipment is under development. Order has been placed on three Indian firms for indigenous development and supply of this equipment for Bombay telephone system.

(c) Cost of local equipment is not lower than the cost of import. The total cost of import of this equipment will be US \$ 3,789,425 (FOB).

Import is necessary since the indigenous equipment is still under development and it is necessary to provide a well-proven system as the equipment will do the billing and therefore has to be highly reliable. The development takes a long time to stabilise and get perfected.

[*English*]

#### Price approval for sale of Drugs

4839. SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Importers Traders of bulk drugs do not require price approval for sale of drugs under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1987; and

(b) if so, the reasons for deletion of the provision that existed under Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1979 for prior price approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS & PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY: (SHRI R.K. JAICHAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b). No Sir, Importer/Traders of scheduled bulk drugs cannot sell their drugs without price approval as per the provisions of DPCO, 1987.

#### Allocation of Palmolein to Maharashtra

4840. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has requested Union Government to increase the allocation of Palmolein oil during the months from August to October, 1987; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take or have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The allocation of imported Palmolein Oil to Maharashtra has progressively been increased from August, 1987.

#### Flaring of Gas

4841. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantity of gas is being flared annually; and

(b) if so, how much worth of gas has been flared so far and how much is expected to be flared in the next ten years based on