

(d) Oil companies have planned to open five retail outlets in the State of J & K during the current year.

(e) Considering the demand, the number of outlets in J & K in relation to other States does not appear to be low.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Strengthening of Cuddapah A.I.R. Station

5098. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cuddapah A.I.R. Station is very weak to cater to the needs of Rayalaseema; and

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to strengthen the station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) The 20 KW MW transmitter at Cuddapah does not cover the entire Rayalaseema area. The hilly terrain around Cuddapah is the chief reason for this inadequate coverage.

(b) A proposal to upgrade the power of Cuddapah transmitter to 100 KW/MW is being considered for inclusion in the 6th Plan (1980-85) proposals. Its implementation will, however depend upon the availability of resources and relative priorities.

Prices of Drugs

5099. SHRI B. R. NAHATA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state how many times the prices of drugs have been increased during the last five years and to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): There has been no general revision of the prices of either bulk drugs or formulations during the last five years. However, the prices of individual bulk drugs and formulations have during this period, undergone changes which include increases as well as decreases.

The enclosed statement indicates the price increases allowed for bulk drugs (which are price controlled under DPCO, 1979) during the period 1975-76 to 1978-79. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1168/180]. After March, 1978 Government have not allowed any increases in the prices of bulk drugs except in the following cases:

S. No.	Name of the drug	Pre-revised price	Rs./Kg., Revised price under DPCO, 1979
1.	Sodium PAS	61.00 (for captive use)	65.02 (for captive use).
		63.61 (for sale to others)	67.18 (for sale to others).
2.	PAS Acid	75.85 (for captive use)	69.87 (for captive use).
		68.00 (for sale to others)	72.02 (for sale to others)
3.	Calcium PAS	83.26 (for captive use & sale)	89.14 (for captive use & sale).
4.	Calcium B PAS	65.28 (for captive use & sale)	68.12 (for captive use & sale)
5.	Indomethacin	672.00 (Pooled price)	918.77 (pooled price).

As regards increases allowed in the prices of formulations during the period 1975-76 to 1977-78, since the number of formulations runs into thousands, the time and efforts involved in compiling details of such increases would not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved. After, March, 1978, Government have not allowed any increases in the prices of price controlled formulations except on account of special duty of excise at 5 per cent of the basic excise duty levied in the 1980-81 Budget proposal on all the patent and proprietary medicines.

Foreign Assistance for Oil Exploration in India

5100. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI B. V. DESAI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many countries have now come forward to help and assist India in oil exploration;

(b) if so, which are the countries that have agreed to help;

(c) whether Canada is among them and has offered a loan to India for purchasing gas equipment etc.;

(d) if so, what are the other countries which have offered the loan; and

(e) to what extent this will help India in oil exploration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (e): Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

मध्य प्रदेश में रतलाम में गैस पर आधारित एक उर्वरक संयंत्र की स्थापना

5101. श्री बिलोप सिंह भूरिया: क्या पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या रतलाम (मध्य प्रदेश) में गैस पर आधारित एक उर्वरक संयंत्र की स्थापना की जा रही है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस विषय में अब तक क्या प्रगति की गई है

पेट्रोलियम रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री (श्री वीरेन्द्र पाटिल): (क) और (ख). गैस पर आधारित भावी उर्वरक संयंत्रों के लिये सम्भावित स्थानों की जांच के लिये सरकार द्वारा गठित कार्य दल ने बताया है कि इनमें से एक संयंत्र मध्य प्रदेश में स्थापित किया जा सकता है। तथापि, एक उर्वरक संयंत्र की स्थापना के निर्णय इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर की उपलब्धता कच्चे माल और तैयार उर्वरकों के परिवहन तकनीक तथा अन्य सम्बन्धित तकनीकी आर्थिक विचारों को ध्यान में रखते हुये किये जाती है। भविष्य में कार्यान्वित किये जाने वाले उर्वरक संयंत्रों के निश्चित स्थान के बारे में निर्णय लेना अभी सम्भव हो पायेगा जब विस्तृत तकनीकी आर्थिक अध्ययन पूरे हो जायें।

Shortage of L. P. in towns of Bihar

5102. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of L.P.G. for domestic use in Bihar towns;

(b) whether any plan is prepared for the supply of LPG to these areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a back-log in refill supplies by the Indian Oil Corporation in Bihar Town due to the closure of Barauni refinery.

(b) and (c). To the extent possible assistance is being rendered by moving the product from the Haldia refinery.

Mixing of kerosene in Diesel

5103. SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that earlier the prices of diesel and kerosene were kept at the same level to discourage mixing of kerosene in diesel;