

the constitution of a Screening Committee to consider applications for employment.

(b) The names of the Central Trade Unions which participated are given below:—

INTUC, AITUC, CITU, BMS. Apart from this, another labour union, SBKMS (UTUC) also participated.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Television Centre at Bhensal Taluka Khuldabar, Maharashtra**

2049. SHRI QAZI SALEEM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans, proposals and estimates of Maharashtra and Central Government for a transmission and/or Television Centre at "Bhensal" Taluka Khuldabar in Maharashtra;

(b) whether any surveys have been made in the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Maharashtra Government has written to the Centre any time for the same or any expert or engineering or any other committee had been appointed for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details of the Reports and the outcome thereof;

(f) whether the demand from various quarters have been made for the establishment or development of same during 1977, 1978, 1979 and during 1st February, 1980 to 31st January, 1981;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(h) when the said transmission/television centre is likely to be established and functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) There is no proposal at present to set a TV Centre at Bhensal Taluka Khuldabar in Maharashtra.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) and (h). Do not arise.

#### **Periyar Hydro-Electric Scheme**

2050. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project report of the lower Periyar Hydro-Electric Scheme had been submitted to the Government of India for clearance by the Government of Kerala;

(b) the main details of the project proposed;

(c) what is the reason for the delay in giving clearance to the project; and

(d) whether Government of India are expected to give clearance to the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The scheme as proposed involves construction of a 31 m. high concrete dam, a 12.09 Km. long unlined power tunnel and an overground power station with an installation of 3 units of 60 MW each. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 59.76 crores.

(c) and (d). The project report has been examined in the Central Electricity Authority and Central Water Commission. The technical examination of the scheme is complete, except for some clarifications that are required by the Central

Water Commission on aspects of dam design, hydrology etc. The Project authorities have been requested to depute their officers with a view to expediting the clarifications. As soon as the Central Water Commission clears the project, action to accord techno-economic clearance will be taken.

**Rise in prices of life saving drugs and vitamins**

2051. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

SHRI PHOOL CHAND  
VERMA:

SHRI MADHAVRAO  
SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether Government have recently approved further rise in the prices of a large number of life saving drugs and even vitamins;

(b) if so, the list of items so covered and the extent of price-rise allowed;

(c) whether most of these items are manufactured by large firms which are making substantial profits; and

(d) if so, the grounds for Government's decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The prices of 111 bulk drugs including a number of Vitamins have been revised so far involving increases in some cases and decreases in other cases. The prices of a number of formulations have also been revised.

(b) A Statement giving the names of the bulk drugs and the extent of price increase or decrease allowed is laid on the Table of House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2010/81].

(c) The bulk drugs for which prices have been revised are not manufac-

tured by large firms alone. The drugs in question are manufactured by public sector, Indian companies in the organised Sector and small scale sector and also some foreign companies.

(d) The prices of most drugs which were under price control earlier had remained unchanged for a number of years and in March, 1978, a specific freeze was also imposed for a year under the New Drug Policy. Revisions of the prices was due thereafter in accordance with the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979. Meanwhile there have been substantial increase in the cost of inputs particularly as a result of the hikes in prices of petroleum products. Hence the present revision in prices which takes into account all these factors.

**Suspension of exploitation Work in Krishna-Godavari Basin**

2052. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil exploitation work has been suspended in the Krishna-Godavari basin since December, 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount so far spent for exploitation in that basin; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to resume exploitation work at that place?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) So far only exploration work is going on in Krishna-Godavari basin and no exploitation work has been done.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Upto 31-3-1980, an amount of Rs. 16.43 crores, including depreciation of Rs. 4.52 crores was incurred