

Manufacture of modern design telephone Instruments

2358. SHRI GHULAM MOHAMMAD KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Telephone Industries Ltd. propose to manufacture about a million telephone instruments of modern design;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the period during which increased production of telephone instruments will be undertaken; what are the production centres; what is the present demand of telephone instruments and how far the expansion programme will meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., Bangalore, in consultation with P&T Department had invited offers of collaboration for manufacture of 1 million telephone instruments and 1.5 million critical sub-assemblies of contemporary design, in its two factories at Naini and Bangalore. After prolonged and thorough field trials of the proven models and the technical evaluation of tenders received, the offers of two foreign companies were recommended by a Technical Evaluation Committee consisting of experts from P&T and I.T.I. Action for the final selection of the collaborator and for sanction of the Project, etc., are in progress.

(c) The production is scheduled to commence from January, 1983, subject to the necessary sanctions being accorded by Government by the end of this year. Full production capacity is expected to be achieved by 1985-86.

The feeder unit manufacturing the critical components is proposed to be located at Bangalore and the units manufacturing the other components and assembling the telephones at Bangalore and Naini.

The total projected demand of telephone instruments of the P&T Department as well as non-P&T subscribers for the year 1981-82 is 5.44 lakhs. With the expansion planned as indicated above, Indian Telephone Industries Ltd. will be able to meet the requirements during the Sixth Plan period.

Demand by Multinational Drug Companies for Hike in prices of Bulk Drugs

2359. PROF. RUP CHAND PAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how many times Government had conceded the demand of multinational drug companies for hike in prices of bulk drugs during the last three years; and

(b) what is the actual cost of production of those 52 bulk drugs and how prices thereof are fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 which was promulgated effective 31st March, 1979 incorporates the pricing decisions contained in the new Drug Policy Statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 29th March, 1978. The Order provides for revision in prices of drugs from time to time. The policy and Procedure for revising the prices of drugs under the said Order was approved by the Government only in August 1980. Thereafter the revised prices of 154 bulk drugs out of about 200 indigenously produced price controlled bulk drugs have already been announced by the Government. There

is no question of conceding the demand of multinational drug companies or any other sector of the Industry for hike in prices as such.

(b) The prices of drugs are fixed by the Government based on the recommendations of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. A Statement showing the names, pre-revised prices and revised prices of 153 bulk drugs was furnished in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 383 answered on 18th August, 1981. After 18th August, 1981 the price of one more bulk drug, namely, Calcium Lactate has since been revised.

Inclusion of Chinsurah Group of Telephone Exchanges into Calcutta Local System

2360. PROF. RUP CHAND PAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to include Chinsurah Group of Telephone Exchanges into Calcutta Local System; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Norms regarding coverage of Limit Clients of LPG Distributors

2361. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that many LPG distribution agents are saddled with vast areas in cities like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta with a large population; and

(b) if so, when Government are going to review the norms regarding the number of clients a distribution agent should cover?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to ensure that cooking gas distributorships of different oil companies maintain a size conducive to the economic and efficient functioning of such distributorships and they do not become or continue to be too big and thus deprive others from the opportunity of running such distributorships, ceilings on the refills sale by the distributors have been fixed as under:—

Market	No. of refills per month
Bombay	6,000
Delhi	4,000
Other cities with population over 10 lakhs	3,500
Cities with population between 2 lakhs and 10 lakhs	3,000
Other places	2,500

Co-operative Societies, however, have been exempted from these ceilings.

Taking over of Assam Oil Company

2362. SHRI AJOY BISWAS:
SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI:

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

(a) whether Government are considering to take over the Assam Oil Company; and

(b) if so, when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.