

Telephone connections under "Own Your Own Telephone" Scheme

1468. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections allotted during 1981-82 under the scheme own your own telephones;

(b) the maximum waiting period for connections under this scheme; and

(c) the steps taken to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) About 17,000 connections have been provided upto 31-12-1981 under OYT Scheme.

(b) The waiting period differs from exchange to exchange depending on the number of waiting applicants and size of expansion programme. Average waiting period for O.Y.T. is 1-3 years and is likely to be reduced to 1 to 2 years in the balance period of 6th Plan.

(c) The existing exchanges are being expanded and new ones are being opened.

Captive Power Plants by Core Sector Public Undertakings

1469. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many thermal power plants will be set up and at what places to help the core sector public undertakings;

(b) the present day capacity utilisation in these units and the expected capacity utilisation after installation of the proposed captive power plants, plant-wise details thereof; and

(c) the anticipated increase in production; plant-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cut in Production of Drugs by Drug Companies

1470. SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several drug companies have effected a cut in the production of essential drugs and there is acute shortage of drugs, specially anti-T. B., Chloramphenicol, Sulphaphenazole, Sulphasomidine, Vitamin D 3;

(b) if so, the main causes of cut in drug production and drug shortages; and

(c) the measure proposed to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). There has been some shortfall in the production of certain anti-T.B. drugs like PAS and INH during April—October 1981 as compared to the corresponding period of 1980, although the production of other anti-TB drugs like Ethambutol has increased. The shortfall in production of PAS and INH appears to be related to a fall in demand due to the preference for therapeutically more effective drugs like Ethambutol. In the case of Sulphasomidine, Sulphaphenazole and Vitamin D 3, there has been a shortfall in production due to industrial unrest which is now over. Production of Chloramphenicol Powder from the