

and removing unreasonable controls and giving protection to certain sector of the industry by ensuring a fair pricing mechanism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) (a) and (b). The provisions of the 1978 Drug Policy are being reviewed. No final decision about the changes, if any to be made therein, has been taken so far.

Requirement of Newspapers for Newsprint

1410. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is possibility that there would be shortage of newsprint in the coming months;

(b) if so, the details regarding the requirements of newspapers for newsprint during the year 1982-83; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the requirement during the said period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Additional imports for making good the shortfall in domestic production has been arranged.

Linking of canning town with Calcutta by STD

1411. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the linking on STD of Canning Town with Calcutta in West Bengal; and

(b) how long more will it take to open this STD for public use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) Provision of STD from Canning Town can be considered only after the existing telephone exchange at Canning is replaced by an automatic exchange of appropriate type.

(b) The present exchange at Canning is likely to be replaced by an appropriate type of automatic exchange in the next Five Year Plan and STD is expected to be provided thereafter.

Workers employed for construction project in Iraq

1412. SHRI GHULAM MOHAMMAD KHAN:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to newspaper reports that nearly 1000 workers employed for the construction project in Iraq arrived home penniless and before their departure for India they were forced to work for long hours dragged to the jail and they had to stay in a clumsy place without fans in summer or heaters during winter;

(b) whether Government propose to inquire into the maltreatment of the workers;

(c) whether any assistance was provided by our Embassy in Baghdad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) 876 workers who were employed by an Indian construction company for the Baghdad University Project in Iraq were sent back to India between 4th and 7th February, 1983. The workers had gone on strike demanding fulfilment of some of their demands which included payment of overtime allowance for ex-