

proper supply to the farmers to save their crops?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) :** (a) and (b) It is not correct that crops in various States have been damaged due to non-supply of power. Although there is a power shortage in the country, priority in supply of power is accorded to agricultural consumers, and Government have directed State Electricity Boards to maximise supply to agricultural consumers. Supply to farmers in various parts of the country varies from 6 to 24 hours per day.

**Setting up of Indo-British Joint Working Group in the Area of Tele-Communications**

**4493. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Government has suggested the setting up of an Indo-British joint working group in the area of tele-communications; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing Memorandum of Understanding for Industrial collaboration between India and the U.K. provides adequate framework for cooperation in the field of tele-communications also. Therefore, there is no need for setting up any more formal liaison groups for the purpose.

**Lower demand estimates for wide range of Essential Drugs**

**4494. DR. PRATAP WAGH :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Govern-

ment have lowered the demand estimates for a wide range of essential drugs leaving a wide gap between demand and supply;

(b) whether Penicillin, Streptomycin, Tetracycline, and similar drugs, so essential for primary health care facilities, have created a gap between demand and supply; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take for expansion and growth of drugs industry in the country?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH) :**

(a) and (b) The Sixth Plan demands for various bulk drugs and formulations were anticipated on the basis of projected growth rates. In the light of actual consumption during the last three years some of these projections are found to be over pitched while some others are under pitched. In order to arrive at a more realistic demand targets on the basis of actual consumption a mid term review is being carried out. However, Planning Commission as part of their mid term appraisal have revised the overall targets for bulk drugs and formulations. Mid term review has not created any gap between demand and supply.

(c) The Government have already taken the following steps for expansion and growth of drug industry in the country :—

- (i) A large number of Industrial Approvals including DGTD Registrations have been granted.
- (ii) Expansion in the capacity of bulk drugs and formulations in the Public Sector, has been undertaken.
- (iii) Assistance is given for removing bottlenecks in production by the introduction of improved technology, in the procurement of raw