

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

materials, and supply of utilities in respect of existing drug units.

- (iv) Implementation of Industrial Licences and Letters of Intent is monitored, and the difficulties in implementation, if any, in respect of such units is gone into.
- (v) The scheme for automatic growth has been extended to the drug industry.
- (vi) The schemes for recognition of installed capacities and the scheme for re-endorsement of higher capacity have been extended to the drug industry subject to certain conditions.

Steps to reduce the cost of litigation

4495. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether litigation in India continues to be very costly;

(b) whether this high cost of litigation prevents very often the common man from approaching the law courts for justice; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to bring down the high cost of litigation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The cost of litigation is dependent on various factors like the fees chargeable by the lawyers, court fees, delays in the disposal of cases, distance which the litigant has to cover to come to the court, etc. As various steps for reducing the cost of litigation have been taken, it would not be correct to say that the litigation in India continues to be very costly. It would also be incorrect to say that the common man is very often

prevented from approaching the law courts for justice.

(c) For bringing down the cost of litigation legal aid is being rendered to an appreciable extent by several States in the country. Efforts are afoot to reduce the delay and the arrears and the question of rationalisation of court fees is also at a fairly advanced stage.

उपभोक्ताओं के नये आवासों पर गैस सिलेंडरों की सप्लाई

4496. श्री धनवार ग्रहमद : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) खाना बनाने की गैस उपभोक्ताओं द्वारा एक ही गैस डोलर के क्षेत्र में आवास बदलने पर नए आवास पर गैस सिलेंडर सप्लाई प्राप्त करने के लिए क्या प्रक्रिया तथा नियम निर्धारित किए गए हैं और गैस उपभोक्ताओं को नए पते पर गैस सिलेंडर की सप्लाई प्राप्त करने के लिए क्या औपचारिकताएं पूरी करना आवश्यक है ; और

(ख) उन व्यक्तियों को नए पते पर गैस कनेक्शन प्राप्त करने के लिए क्या औपचारिकताएं पूरी करना आवश्यक है, जो खाना बनाने की गैस के लिए नए कनेक्शन के लिए प्रतीक्षा सूची में हैं और जिन्होंने गैस कनेक्शन के आबंटन से पूर्व ही मकान बदल लिया है ?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय के पेट्रोलियम विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री गार्गी शंकर मिश्र) : (क) एल. पी. जी. के उपभोक्ता को अपने सम्बन्धित वितरक को आवास/वास्तविकता के प्रमाण के रूप में उपयुक्त दस्तावेज के साथ एक पत्र देना पड़ता है जिसमें आवास के बदलने की सूचना दी जाती है