

have pointed out that people below poverty line, particularly Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, have not benefited from these schemes ; even though some of the State Governments have lowered the criteria for economic viability in their case ;

(c) if so, the other points revealed in Planning Commission's report ;

(d) whether Planning Commission has suggested that more incentives be provided to these people so that they could also enjoy the benefits of electrification ;

(e) whether Government have accepted the suggestion ; and

(f) the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (d). It has been revealed in the study brought out by the Planning Commission that every sixth village surveyed had reported about two interruptions in power supply per day. Also, there was a delay in getting electric connections by the consumers due to long and cumbersome procedure. As regards the repair facilities, report of the Study Group reveals that for a large number of villages, repair facilities were generally available only beyond five kilometres from the villages. It has been suggested in the study that more effort is needed on the part of State Governments to provide electricity to villages where Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population dominate and also to give more incentive to weaker sections so that benefits of electricity are available to them. Other salient points revealed in the study of the Planning Commission are—(i) the long and cumbersome procedure which delays in getting connections by the consumer ; (ii) bill collection centres in a number of States were at a distance of over five kilometres from the villages surveyed ; (iii) after electrification, there is an increase in the number of pumpsets, areas irrigated, adoption of high yielding varieties of improved seeds, widespread use of chemical fertilizers etc. ; (iv) the industrial units which came up in rural areas were mostly agro-based ; (v)

rural electrification has resulted in considerably increase in reading habits, entertainments, sports and hobbies besides reducing drudgery of women folk ; (vi) Crop pattern had shifted towards more remunerative crops due to assured irrigation facilities ; (vii) lack of finances is the main constraint of the 'non-beneficiaries' for not switching over to the use of electricity.

(e) and (f). The Ministry of Energy is already seized of the problems brought out in the Report of the Planning Commission and action is being taken.

Final decision on use of only generic names of drugs and measures to check continued use of brand names of drugs

1603. SHRI K. PRADHANI :
SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE :

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

(a) whether the continued use of brand names for drugs, despite persistent demand for their ban, has resulted in the consumer paying heavily for almost every drug he purchases ;

(b) whether Government have since taken a final decision on the recommendations of the Hathi Committee for the use of only generic names of drugs ; if so, details thereof ; and

(c) the machinery devised to enforce it and check the continued tendency of the drug companies to lure the medical profession into prescribing the expensive brands and playing on the ignorance of the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). Government decided in March, 1978 based on the recommendations of the Hathi Committee to abolish brand names on single ingredient formulations based on the following five drugs :

1. Analgin
2. Aspirin

3. Chlorpromazine
4. Ferrous Sulphate
5. Piperazine and its salts, such as Ade-pate, Citrate and Phosphate.

In addition use of brand names on newer drugs to be formulated in single ingredient dosage were also abolished. The decisions to the above effect were communicated to the Registrar of Trade Marks on 16th March, 1979. The above decisions were not applicable in respect of formulations meant for export. Certain manufacturers challenged the decision of the Government in Delhi High Court, and the said Court in its judgement delivered on 13th August, 1982 declared that laying down inter-alia drugs containing any of the single active ingredient shall be marketed only under generic name as illegal and ultravires of the Constitution. The Government have preferred an appeal (Special Leave Petition) in the Supreme Court which has been admitted. The Supreme Court is, however, yet to deliver the final judgement. The prices of drugs are statutorily controlled under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 and the price calculated whether formulation is sold under a brand name or a generic name is the same. The differences in price, however, arise on account of excise duty which is levied by the Government. Therefore, in respect of price controlled formulations manufacturers cannot charge higher price for branded products except to the extent of excise duty which is paid to the Exchequer.

Sexism in Advertising Media

1604. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Womew deny blatant sexism in media' appearing in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi of 11th February, 1984 ; and

(b) the steps which he proposes to take to tackle sexism in the advertising media ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Commercial advertisements on All India Radio and Doordarshan are governed by the Code for Commercial Broadcasting and the Code of Commercial Advertising respectively. Ad copies are carefully screened before broadcast/telecast and suitable changes are suggested to the parties for acceptance wherever necessary.

Government does not have any control over the advertisements released by private advertisers to newspapers. Government feels that self-regulation by the advertising community, increased social awareness and adherence to professional standards and ethics would be effective instrument in tackling such tendencies in the print media.

गुजरात में नये डाकघरों की स्थापना

1605. श्री छीतूभाई गामित : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात राज्य में चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान नये डाकघर खोलने और अधिक तार सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार को गुजरात सरकार से कोई योजना प्राप्त हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) दूरदराज के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों, विशेष रूप से उन क्षेत्रों में, जहां समाज के कमजोर वर्ग के लोग रहते हैं, इन सुविधाओं को उपलब्ध कराने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा स्वीकृत योजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री वी० एन० गाडगिल) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।