

(c) (i) 5,812 persons were arrested during 1973, 1974 and 1975.

(ii) The following steps have been taken for prevention of crimes on Railways:—

- (1) Important trains are being escorted by Armed Police and Railway Protection Force staff.
- (2) A vigorous drive has been launched against the criminals and receivers of stolen property in cooperation with State Governments. In addition to action for specific offences, action has also been taken under the preventive laws.

Oil Drilling in Laxmikantapur and Sundarbans

926. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on drilling oil has been started at Laxmikantapur in West Bengal.

(b) if not, when this will be taken up; and

(c) what has been the findings of the drillings made in Sundarbans area for oil potentialities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Drilling at Laxmikantapur would depend on the results of drilling at Diamond Harbour, which would be taken up in the near future.

(c) No drilling has so far been carried out in Sundarbans area.

Aid by World Bank for Production of Fertilizers

927. SHRI YAMNA PRASAD MANDAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank provided aid to the tune of \$212 million for production of fertilizers in the country during 1975; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of this aid?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). In 1975, an agreement was signed with the World Bank for a loan of US \$109 million for the Phulpur project of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited and another agreement with the International Development Association (IDA), a soft lending affiliate of the World Bank, for a development credit of US \$105 million. The two loans together amount to \$214 million.

The World Bank loan of \$109 million is to be utilised for meeting the foreign exchange component of the Phulpur fertilizer project and is for a term of sixteen years including five years of grace, with interest at the rate of 8 per cent per annum.

The I.D.A. development credit of \$105 million is to be utilised mainly for improving the operations of the existing fertilizer units, both in the public as well as private sector. Apart from the balancing equipments required for improved operations of fertilizer plants, the credit would be available for:—

- (i) development of associated facilities to ensure reliability of captive power generation equipment, and

- (ii) schemes designed for better production control like recovery of fluorine in phosphatic fertilizer plants and production of items like soda ash and argon associated with fertilizer plants.

This credit does not carry any interest but only a service charge of 3/4 per cent per annum; the period of repayment is fifty years including ten years of grace period.

Prices of Drugs under 20-Point Economic Programme

928. SHRI S. M. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug units are being forced to reduce their prices under the 20-Point Economic Programme of the Prime Minister in spite of the fact that there is statutory price control in this commodity; and

(b) is there any lacunae in the Price Control Order and if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government to remove the anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) The prices of drugs are statutorily controlled under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970 which provides a mechanism for revision in prices. The prices of drugs and medicines are revised by the Government from time to time in accordance with norms and procedures prescribed in this Order. The prices fixed under the Order are ceiling prices and dealers are not precluded from selling them below the ceiling price. There is no lacuna in the Drugs (Price Control) Order 1970 and this Order has been operating satisfactorily since May, 1970

The Programme Implementation Committee, Delhi Administration have initiated action to seek voluntary cooperation of the manufac-

turers and dealers, including manufacturers and dealers of drugs and medicines to reduce prices of articles of mass consumption.

Pending Applications for Grant of C.O.B. Licences

929. SHRI S. M. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications for the grant of C.O.B. licences for drug items are pending with Government and particulars regarding names of the companies and items applied for; and

(b) particulars of C.O.B. licences granted during the last two years with names of the companies and items and capacities approved in such licences?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). At present 12 applications for the grant of COB licences for drug items are pending with Government. Statement I showing particulars regarding names of the companies and items applied for in COB licences which are pending with Government and Statement II showing the particulars of COB licences granted to the drug manufacturing companies during the period 31-7-74 to 1-8-76 with the names of the companies and items with annual capacities approved in such licences are laid on the Table of the House. [Placed on the Table of the House. See LT-No. 11132/76].

Drilling in West Bengal and Orissa Coast

930. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether work on offshore drilling in West Bengal and Orissa Coast has been abandoned; and