

cent annual return for their investment. I would like to know whether the operators are not allowed to provide long distance services. 55 per cent of the revenue of the Department of Telecommunications comes from domestic and long distance services. Then, why is it that the Government is not allowing this? I would like to know whether the basic service operators would not get 2.5 per cent return. Is it true? Why, no national policy has been not evolved yet?

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is standing to give a reply to you. Please sit down.

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : He has not understood the question.

MR. SPEAKER : Translation is time consuming.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : It will have to be looked into. Pragmatic approach would be adopted in this regard.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI T. GOPALKRISHNA : Sir, I would like to know what the hurdles in achieving the objectives enunciated in the National Telecom Policy and also the reasons for the delay in appointing the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : The Telecom Regulatory Bill was introduced in this House it was referred to the Select Committee. The Committee has submitted its report. After taking a final decision on that, it will be laid on the Table of the House.

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

12.00½ hrs.

### Ban on Use of Oxytocin Injection

SNQ 1. SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem, appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated December 6, 1996 regarding injecting the cows and buffaloes with Oxytocin for increasing the milk output;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to ban its use;

(c) whether the Oxytocin induces poison in the milk;

(d) whether the Government have made any investigation in this regard; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

### STATEMENT

(a) Yes Sir. The Government is aware of the news item published in Hindustan Times dated 6-12-1996. Oxytocin is sometimes used in the cows and buffaloes which suffer from let down problem. In such situation, animal's own oxytocin is not released in the circulation. Use of this injection, however, does not increase the milk output.

(b) Oxytocin is a scheduled - "H" drug. Therefore, as per the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940; Rules 1945 (Rule 65) sale of oxytocin injection is permitted only against the prescription of a registered medical practitioner (this includes veterinary practitioners also). The powers to implement the Act is vested with the Drug Controller of India and the State Drug Controllers. The Drug Controller of India has already given instructions to the State Drug Controllers to regulate manufacture and distribution of oxytocin.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e). Since Oxytocin is a peptide hormone, it can not directly pass from blood to the milk. Thus elimination of oxytocin in the milk does not appear to represent an important path. Moreover, it is fast eliminated from circulation (its half life is about 1-5 minutes only) and is destroyed by the kidney and liver apart from being utilized by the mammary gland/udder for let down of milk.

[English]

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri-Garhwal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister does not categorically state that oxytocin is harmful to human beings. All that the Minister has said is that it gets diluted. Therefore, I would like to know what preventive steps are taken by the Government prior to the milk being supplied in the market so that any trace of oxytocin is diluted or diffused. No satisfactory categorical reply

has been given on this issue, which is a harmful hazard I would like to know what steps does the not Minister propose to take.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, oxytocin is a hormone secreted by a particular gland present in the bodies of human beings as well the animals. Whenever the calf of a mammal such as cow or buffalo dies, there is a problem in lactation. At that time the oxytocin hormone is injected in order to aid the process of lactation. This drug has been prescribed after getting it thoroughly tested by the Drug Controller so as to prevent the ill effects on the body of the animal or its milk. It does not affect the health of either human being or animal.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Silence, please. There has to be order in the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can a Drug Controller check up all the cattle that are supplying milk in all the cities? I challenge his statement. I would like to be satisfied by a proper reply. I would like to have an assurance as to how they propose to check all the cattle.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this newsitem was published in the newspaper that the poisonous element is mixed in the milk when this injection is given to the animal and is injurious to health, we got an enquiry conducted by the three institutes, I.A.I.I., I.C.A.R. and N.D.R.I. It was found that when the oxytocin hormone is injected in the body, the needle does not remain in the body for more than one or one and a half minute. Hence it does not affect either the body or the milk. Therefore, it is not injurious to health. Whenever hormone level goes down in one's body, only then this injection is given.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Vacancies of Presiding Officers

\*407. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are large number of vacancies of Presiding Officers in the Labour Courts;

(b) if so, the present position thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) There are at present four vacancies of Presiding officers of Central Government Industrial Tribunals-cum-Labour Courts out of 12 such Courts set up for adjudicating industrial disputes in the Central sphere. Recommendations for filling up three of these vacancies have been received and those for the fourth have been invited.

### Minerals in Rajasthan

\*408. SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the different kinds of mineral reserves in Southern Rajasthan;

(b) the steps taken to exploit the hidden mineral wealth in this area;

(c) whether the Government propose to prepare a definite policy and programme for the proper exploitation of mineral in the State; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) As per the information furnished by the Indian Bureau of Mines, District-wise recoverable reserves of minerals in Southern Rajasthan are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The exploitation of the minerals in the State is Governed by the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. As per the information available, there are 649 mining leases for the major minerals, 6363 mining leases for the minor minerals and 10085 quarry licences for minor minerals in the area.

(c) and (d). The Central Government has already formulated National Mineral Policy 1993 for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals for the country as a whole for the exploration and development of mineral resources in the country. Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act 1957 has been amended in 1994 in line with the New Mineral Policy announced in 1993. The Government in October, 1996 have issued guidelines for grant of Prospective Licence under Section 6 of MMRD Act, 1957 for areas larger than 25 Sq. kms. to encourage induction of foreign technology and private investment in exploration and exploitation of the Minerals. Rajasthan Government has also formulated Mineral Policy, 1994 for exploration and Development of the minerals in the State.