

the Government of Madhya Pradesh, till 3.8.1990, 1,35,458 bank accounts have been opened in favour of the beneficiaries of the scheme.

(c) The compensation amount for the Bhopal Gas victims has not yet been finally decided as the matter is sub-judice before the Supreme Court.

DPEA Notices to Companies

1941. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue notices, under Drug Prices Equalisation Account to selected 100 Companies then there are more than 10,000 pharmaceutical producers;

(b) whether any complaints of discrimination in issuing the DPEA notices to the companies have come to the notice of Government;

(c) whether issue of DPEA notices has dampening effect on the production of essential drugs in drugs and pharmaceutical industry resulting in a big set-back in new investment and widening the gap between demand and supply of essential drugs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to create a climate of confidence in drug industry for its healthy growth?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Notices have been issued only in those cases which fall within the scope of paragraphs 4 & 7 of DPCO, 1979 and paragraphs 14 and 15 OF DPCO, 1987, and the judgements of the courts. The question

of any discrimination, therefore, does not arise.

(c) Notices for recovery of overcharged amounts and unintended benefits have nothing to do with the investments, as such investments have to be financed from the legitimate financial resources of the company and not from the unauthorised gains which do not belong to the producers. There is adequate production and availability of essential drugs in the country.

(d) Before finalising the amounts due in accordance with the due procedure of law, opportunity is also given to the concerned company for bringing out discrepancy, if any.

[*Translation*]

Purchase of Raw Material by Nepa Ltd.

1942. SHRI AMRATLAL VALLABHDAS TARWALA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepa Limited, Napanagar had entered into contract with the Government of Maharashtra to purchase raw material (bamboos) from Dhulia (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, the quantity of bamboo to be purchased under this contract;

(c) the date upto which the entire quantity of raw material was to be lifted by the Nepa mill as per the contract;

(d) if the entire quantity has not been lifted, the remaining quantity thereof and the extent of loss to the Mill as a result thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?