

electrical pumps, agricultural implements, bicycle mopeds, basic electric gadgets, transistor radios, tillers, basic pharmaceuticals, small motors and agro industries.

Appointment of Regular Director General for Doordarshan

*896. SHRI PETER G. MARBANJANG:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Director General, Doordarshan is lying vacant for long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when the post is likely to be filled up on regular basis?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The selection process for the appointment to the post of Director General, Doordarshan, on regular basis, has not yet been completed.

Tax-Free Drugs

*897. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tax free drugs; and

(b) the reasons for exemption thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Drugs and medicines attract both central and state levies. The central levies include customs and central excise duties as well as Central Sales Tax. The administration of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, under which Central

Sales Tax is levied, has been entrusted by law to the State Governments who alone have the power to grant exemption from levy of such taxes in the public interest. Thus, the Central Government grants exemptions only in respect of customs and central excise duties, details of which are explained below:—

CENTRAL EXCISE DUTY

(a) All bulk drugs specified under the First Schedule to the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 (as amended from time to time) are exempted from central excise duty. These bulk drugs are needed for production of medicines required for various National health Programmes namely, (i) National TB Eradication Programme (ii) National Leprosy Eradication Programme (iii) National Trachoma Control Programme and National Programme for Control of Blindness (iv) National Malaria Eradication Programme and (v) National Filariasis Eradication Programme.

(b) All formulations (excluding formulations based on Tetracycline or Hydrocortisone, for any therapeutic use other than for ophthalmological use) manufactured out of the bulk drugs specified under the First Schedule to the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987, as amended from time to time, are exempted from central excise duty for the same reasons as mentioned in (a) above.

(c) Thirty Patent or Proprietary medicines containing specified life saving drugs used for the treatment of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular diseases etc. are fully exempted from central excise duty.

(d) All medicines sold under the generic names are exempted from central excise duty to encourage production of medicines under generic name.

(e) All Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha and Bio-chemic medicines are exempted from