

Supply Undertaking is increasingly becoming fatal and due to it life has become difficult in some parts of Delhi ;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of overcoming this problem, if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to lay underground electric lines ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) DESU has taken a number of steps to strengthen the existing overhead system by providing adequate guards and removal of other weak points in the distribution system. The precautions to be taken by the public to ensure safety and to avoid accidents have also been publicised.

(c) In view of the high cost of laying underground cables, it is not practicable to convert the existing overhead system into an underground system. In a number of DDA and other approved colonies DESU has been carrying out electrification by laying underground cables.

#### Demand for Gas in Maharashtra

\*503. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have demanded approximately five million cubic metres of gas per day for industries, domestic consumption and for textile mills in the State;

(b) if so, the quantum of industrial gas Maharashtra is getting from the Bombay High at present; and

(c) the steps the Union Government propose to take in order to provide adequate quantum of gas to Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND-NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) The Government of

Maharashtra have requested supply of associated gas from Bombay High to the city of Bombay to meet its domestic, industrial and commercial requirements, assessed by them at about 2.20 Million Cubic Metres per day (MMCMD).

(b) and (c). At present, about 8 MMCMD of associated gas is being brought from Bombay High to the Uran Terminal, where processing facilities are limited to this quantity; after meeting the internal requirements and LPG extraction, the entire remaining quantity of gas, to the tune of about 6.8 to 6.9 MMCMD, is being supplied to various industrial consumers in Maharashtra.

#### Hindustan Paper Corporation Project at Kashipur (U.P.)

\*504. SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the progress of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Project at Kashipur (U.P.) ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : A Project Report for the setting up of a newsprint plant for an annual capacity of 80,000 tonnes, based primarily on bagasse was submitted by Hindustan Paper Corporation. The progress achieved so far with regard to the project is as follows :

- (i) Site for locating the Project has been selected;
- (ii) Negotiations are under progress with the U.P. Co-operative Sugar Factories Federation for obtaining release of bagasse from three sugar mills of the Federation;
- (iii) Government of Uttar Pradesh have agreed to provide 40,000 tonnes of Eucalyptus wood per annum, as required for the project ;
- (iv) Linkage of Coal has been sanctioned by the Department of Coal in consultation with the Ministry of Railways ;
- (v) U.P. State Electricity Board has

agreed to supply the requisite power ;

- (vi) No objection certificate for the disposal of effluent has been obtained from the U.P. Pollution Control Board.

After consideration of various factors, Government have decided that the project should be handled by National Newsprint and Paper Mills Ltd. and that the company should prepare a fresh Detailed Project Report for consideration of Government.

#### Increase in Prices of Medicines

\*505. SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Increase in drug prices round the corner' appearing in the 'Financial Express' of 3 March, 1986 ;

(b) if so, the steps his Ministry is taking to save the consumer from exploitation of drug industry ; and

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to have price control on individual drugs rather than on therapeutic groups ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) :  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The new Drug Policy including the Pricing Policy has not yet been finalised. The main objective of the New Drug Pricing Policy would be to ensure the abundant availability of good quality medicines at fair and reasonable prices.

#### Production of LPG Cylinders in Seventh Plan

\*507. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK :

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY

be pleased to state :

(a) the targets set for the production of LPG cylinders in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan ; and

(b) The details of the strategy for the distribution and production schedule of LPG cylinders in the country, region-wise, for the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) :  
(a) and (b). The annual requirement of LPG cylinders is estimated at 45-50 lakhs. The cylinders are procured from indigenous manufacturers by the oil companies, commensurate with their requirements.

#### Government Controls on Drug Industry

\*508. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as claimed by the organisation of Pharmaceuticals Producers of India Government Controls have hit the drug industry beyond repair ;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the indigenous drug manufacturers (both Indian and foreign-linked) have not been able to fulfil full drug needs of the country ; and

(d) whether it is due to the emphasis and diversion to the task of drug formulations at the cost of weaker sections of consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) :  
(a) It is not true that the controls have hit the pharmaceutical industry beyond repair.

(b) The Govt. have taken up review of the 1978 Drug Policy in order to improve the policy frame and to achieve better the primary objectives of the drug policy, namely, to ensure availability of medicines in abundance at fair and reasonable prices.