

as compared to the production during the corresponding period in 1983-84;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken to rectify the deficiencies in production in this factory ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c). Compared to the corresponding period of 1983-84, during April-December, 1984, the value of production in the Madras Plant of IDPL was less by 43%. This shortfall was mainly due to the discontinuance of production on loan licensing basis. In fact, the production, by the Madras Plant, *per se*, increased by 12.7% during this period. Steps are being taken by IDPL, Madras to increase utilisation of the formulation capacities.

Expansion of Barauni Oil Refinery

*849. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan for expansion of the Barauni oil refinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether increasing needs of eastern region for oil products will be met through long distance transportation of oil products from western and northern regions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Indian Oil Corporation is undertaking studies for de-bottlenecking their refineries including the one at Barauni to increase the capacity.

(c) It is expected that the demand for products in the Eastern Region will be substantially met from the production in the refineries in that region.

Re-opening of closed Old Paper Mills

*850. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of very old paper mills which were established during pre-Independence period are lying closed or are not properly functioning;

(b) if so, the number and names of such paper mills in each State;

(c) whether Government propose to take over and modernise those old paper mills and make them able to work in full capacity so as to produce paper in sufficient quantity and to give jobs to a large number of workers who have been thrown out of jobs due to the closure of such mills;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds, if any, allocated for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). Two such large integrated pulp and paper mills, viz. Bengal Paper Mills in West Bengal and Rohtas Industries Ltd. in Bihar, are lying closed at present.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration of Government to take over the management of these two paper mills under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Public Telephones in Villages

*851. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to instal atleast one public telephone in every village in the country to avoid the inconvenience to

the villagers, during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Long Distance Public Telephones are likely to become accessible to most habitations in the country in a radial distance of 5 Km. progressively by 1990, subject to the availability of financial resources and material.

Oil Exploration by Foreign Companies

*852. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have offered foreign oil companies larger blocks for oil exploration on more favourable terms to attract them to participate in its quest for hydro-carbons;

(b) if so, the time by which final decision in regard to this will be taken;

(c) how many foreign companies have been offered oil exploration; and

(d) how many of them have agreed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (d). Government are considering the question of offering offshore blocks for oil exploration by foreign oil companies. Details are expected to be worked out in the next few months.

Utilisation of INSAT-IB

*853. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether INSAT-IB has been grossly underutilised so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve its utilisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. INSAT-IB became operational in October 1983. It was planned to be utilised in a phased manner. More than 2000 circuits were utilised till end of 1984. The balance will be utilised by end of December 1985.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sale of Medicines

6366. SHRI CHHITTUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than seventy percent of Vitamins' market is under the control of multinationals and they are selling medicines at high rates;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which came to Government's knowledge and the action taken, if any, against them;

(c) the procedure followed by Government in approving price structure etc. in this regard; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to make available antibiotic medicines and Vitamins at cheap rates by bringing these items under official control in order to check contagious diseases and widespread malnutrition ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEE-RENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (d). The prices of multivitamin formulations formulated in accordance with Schedule V of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the rules made thereunder were fixed under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 in August, 1983.