

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.