

mum sale prices. Depending upon the market situation and their commercial judgement the manufacturers including the Public Sector Undertakings are free to sell bulk drugs and formulations at prices not exceeding the maximum sale prices fixed by the Government. The price fixed for Potassium Penicillin G First Crystals is Rs. 582 per BU. In recent years the demand for Penicillin formulations has been more or less stationary, because of replacement by later generation antibiotics such as ampicillin and amoxicillin. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) and Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL) have been finding it difficult to market Penicillin formulations. In August, 1984, IDPL and HAL agreed to supply Penicillin First Crystals to producers of 6-APA at Rs. 500 per BU, so that their capacity utilisation can go up and imports of Penicillin are avoided. A higher price of Penicillin G First Crystals for 6-APA production would necessitate increase in the "pooled" price for 6-APA and consequently of Ampicillin/Amoxicillin, which would affect the public.

(d) Reports of resale of Penicillin First Crystals procured by one 6-APA producer from HAL have been received. HAL has already asked this producer of 6-APA to refund the difference between the notified price and the concessional prices at which Penicillin First Crystals were supplied to them. Further details are being verified.

Bombay Post Offices in Unauthorised Buildings without Civic Amenities

*315. PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Posts and Telegraphs Department has been paying enormously high rents for the buildings used by the Department or Post Offices in the city of Bombay ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the Post Offices in Bombay are located in buildings which are unauthorised constructions and have no civic amenities like water supply ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to inquire into all these aspects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Rents of buildings for Post offices in Bombay city cannot be stated to be high, compared to prevailing rates. These buildings are taken on rent without paying any advance or providing loans as is the practice in Bombay. In all these cases landlords are to pay all municipal and other taxes including outgoings.

(b) Department is not aware of Post offices being located in buildings which are unauthorised construction and have no amenities like water supply in Bombay.

(c) No, Sir.

Leh-Delhi Telephone Service.

*316. SHRI P. NAMGYAL Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Leh-Delhi Telephone Service remained out of order most of the time during the last few months ;

(b) whether it is a fact that whenever the Leh-Delhi line is in order the arrangement for telephone operators at Delhi Exchange attending to Leh Channel is not adequate ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the efficiency of the Leh-Delhi telephone service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. The Leh-Delhi telephone circuit functioned with an efficiency of more than 70 per cent during the last few months.

(b) No, Sir. Leh-Delhi circuit is manned round the clock.

(c) In order to improve efficiency of the Leh-Delhi telephone circuit further the circuit is being verified and tested two times a day and is kept under close watch.

Petrol and Diesel Pumps.

*317. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the policy of his Ministry is such that the existing Indian Oil