

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 stationery, 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 DANDAVATE : 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

Corporation Dealers with diesel pump operation will be allowed to go in for petrol pump operations, whereas the existing petrol sellers are not entitled to sell diesel ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a decision ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Lone MS outlets are meant to take care of demand of two-wheelers, three-wheelers and cars in busy city centres and markets where plying of heavy diesel vehicles poses traffic and other problems. Also, these lone MS outlets are planned on the basis of economic viability.

[Translation]

**Achievement of Research and Development Work in Almora, Uttar Pradesh**

\*318. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Defence Department is spending a large amount every year on research and development work in "Raksha Krishi Anusandhan Kendra" (Defence Agricultural Research Laboratory), Almora, in Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the main achievements of this Kendra and whether there is any proposal for the exchange of achievements and information with other Government institutes functioning in this area ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) :** (a) The budget allotment for Defence Agricultural Research Laboratory (DARL) is only Rs. 53.65 lakhs for 1985-86.

(b) DARL has developed varieties of vegetables and maize. One such variety has been accepted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and large scale field trials are being conducted. Mushroom development and cultivation is being tried out by various Army units and by the locals in the Central Himalayas. DARL has also been working in the fields of animal husbandary, poultry and the use of non-conventional sources of energy. There is a regular interaction between DARL and other State/Central Institutions/Universities working in the field such as

ICAR, Military Farms, Remount Veterinary Corps, State Government Agricultural Departments and Universities.

(c) Question does not arise.

**Supply of Kerosene to States**

\*319. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether each State in the country is supplied kerosene as per demand ;

(b) if so, the quantity of kerosene demanded by each State from January, 1985 to date and the quantity supplied to each State, month-wise ;

(c) the price at which kerosene is sold in each State ; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure that poor people in far flung villages get kerosene according to their requirements and at Government fixed rate ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :** (a) & (b) The kerosene requirement of each State/ Union Territory is assessed by allowing a 5% growth over the allocations made during the corresponding period of previous year on a four-month-block basis. Besides the regular allocations, additional ad hoc releases are also made to meet specific situations like flood, drought, cyclone, shortage of LPG, soft coke etc. A statement showing State-wise month-wise kerosene allocations and sales made during the months of January-July, 1985 is given below.

(c) The Government fixes the basic ceiling selling price of kerosene which varies from Rs. 1821.93 per K.L. to Rs. 1968.73 per KL in different States. The retail price is fixed by the competent local authority by adding freight, local taxes, dealer's commission, etc.

(d) On the basis of market surveys the oil industry has expanded the network of kerosene distributors to about 5,220 locations in the country. Retail distribution is made by the State Govt. through retail dealers located in urban and rural areas. To supply kerosene at a reasonable price in remote and hilly areas, the oil industry has opened Taluka Kerosene Depots.