

May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that a Committee has been constituted for fixing up of the prices of essential drugs and, if so, who are the Members of this Committee, whether the representatives from Indian Medical Association have been included in this Committee or not, and whether this Committee has submitted any recommendation?

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : The question of prices having been raised is the main question asked by the hon. Lady Member. In fact, the thrust of the question is as to why the manufacturers have not applied for an upward revision of the prices or downward revision of the prices. I have answered that the question does not arise. The applications are still under scrutiny. Therefore, the hon. Member's allegation that prices have gone up in the market is absolutely wrong. The prices will go up when the Government takes into consideration the increases made. The prices will go up by about 10-15%. But, as on now, no price has gone up except that revisions have been done by the Department from time to time prior to December, 1986. But, as a result of the new policy, new measures, no prices have gone up.

As regards the Committee, there is no Committee on price revision. But there was a Committee which was set up to find out the list of category 2 drugs, that is, essential drugs. In that, we had representatives of the Medical Association, in fact, suggested by the Ministry of Health. There were two medical practitioners who were present. They were Members of that Committee. They studied the whole thing and the report has been submitted to the Government and the list of category 2 drugs has come out already.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that the prices of the medicines have skyrocketed? Though we belong to a category who have not to purchase the medicines and as such do not feel the strain of buying them but is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that in spite of the medicines manufactured by the IDPL, which is a Government undertaking, being of high quality, the undertaking is not being encouraged due to the pressure on the Government by the multinational

companies for increasing the prices of the medicines and at the same time, the efforts are made to bring bad name to these Government undertakings? Keeping in view the above, will the hon. Minister try to streamline the functioning of the IDPL and make arrangements to produce more medicines in it and market them at reasonable rates as well?

[English]

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : The main question does not relate to the performance of IDPL. Yet, for the information of the hon. Member and also for the information of the House, I would like to put it on record that sometime last year or in the beginning of this year, I have said on the floor of this House, the performance of the IDPL has improved and we would be able to turn the corner by the end of 1988. But I am very happy to announce that the IDPL has already—since June this year—started making cash profits and it is on the upward trend. In fact, this new Drug Policy, it has helped the IDPL and also the other Public Sector Units. It has already started making profits.

Clearance to Vijayawada Thermal Power Plant Stage-III

*43. **SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the clearance to Vijayawada Thermal Power Plant Stage-III, proposed to be set up in the Andhra Pradesh, has been further delayed ;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay ; and

(c) the likely time by which the above plant will be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). A feasibility report in regard to Stage-III (1x500 MW) of the Vijayawada Thermal Power Station was received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) from the Andhra Pradesh State

Electricity Board (APSEB) in September, 1986. However, several aspects, including clearance of the State Pollution Control Board, availability of land for ash disposal and confirmation of availability of water, had not been tied up. The APSEB have been requested for necessary clarifications, details of transmission system and for information relating to cost of implementation of the environmental safeguards, which are awaited.

The proposed scheme could be considered for techno-economic approval only after the requisite inputs and clearances have been obtained by APSEB, as indicated to them by the CEA.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, Andhra Pradesh is suffering for want of power. While 12000 million units are necessary, at present only 9000 million units are produced or generated. While thanking the hon. Minister for Energy for assuring our hon. Chief Minister only very recently that the Government's best cooperation would be extended in regard to certain energy schemes from the State of Andhra Pradesh including the one Gas-based at Narasapur, I would like to bring to the notice of our hon. Minister that VTPS is one of the best-run Thermal Power Stations in the country and there is an urgent need to clear the Vijayawada Thermal Power Plant Stage-III. In fact, the hon. State Minister has, in her reply, stated that these aspects including the clearance of the State Pollution Control Board, availability of land for ash disposal and confirmation of availability of water, these are all available in plenty. There is the Krishna river. Water is abundantly available there. The VTPS authorities have taken hundreds of acres of land for disposal of this ash. Regarding Pollution, even about the present one's—electrostatic precipitator's—use, the houses near-by do not feel this pollution. So, these are very small matters. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would use his good offices with the CEA to examine the techno-economic approval and see that it is cleared at the earliest.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : Sir, only the other day—three days back—the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Shri N.T. Rama

Rao met me with his officers including the Chairman of the State Electricity Board Shri Tata Rao and brought this to my notice personally as well as the other problem of shortage due to hydel shortage in Andhra Pradesh. I had taken initiative in taking up the matter with the State Electricity Board of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and their Chief Ministers, and I am glad to say that from both the States approximately 200-300 million units of power from each State is being given to Andhra Pradesh to make up their shortage. This will make up the shortage. Still there is shortage ; it is about four million. It will be made up. We are trying to help Andhra Pradesh in every possible manner. As far as this Vijayawada Expansion project is concerned, I clarified to them that two aspects need to be cleared apart from other things that we have asked for coal-linkage from Singareni because unless Singareni produces more coal and that coal is assured, we will not be able to supply coal to this Plant. Vijayawada is one of our best-run Stations and I am sure that expansion of Vijayawada will help Andhra Pradesh and we will help it fully and we will consider more sympathetically. As far as CEA is concerned, from our side, there is no problem.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : I am very happy and we will express our thanks to the hon. Minister for making all efforts to help our State to meet the shortage and as the hon. Minister has just now pointed out, the main crux of the problem is coal-linkage. Already, the Department of Environment has cleared this Stage-III. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his Ministry will coordinate with the other Ministries i.e. Department of Coal etc. and see that coal is made available, apart from Singareni. In spite of his efforts, coal production is not making much headway.

From other coal mines, even linkage is not fixed. There is a Muddunuru open cast mine proposal. If the Government provide adequate funds, from there also, coal linkage can be fixed. In the light of this, I enquire from the Hon. Minister what steps is he going to take to see that the coal linkage problem is solved and this project can be taken up at the earliest not only to help our State but to benefit the entire Southern grid ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as coal linkage is concerned, coal also is with the same Ministry. I have already taken up the matter with the Chairman of Singareni Coal Fields. He is meeting me today itself and we want to produce more coal in Singareni. As far as money is concerned, there is no shortage of funds. We have already provided for adequate funds to develop coal in the Singareni area. It is a question of expediting only the efficiency and production. It will not be feasible and economical to bring coal from other areas like Orissa or somewhere else, to have this linkage. Linkage has essentially to be with the Singareni and we are trying to see that it is expedited.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Apart from the coal, Sir, in the earlier question, the Hon. Member has mentioned about land being available. With your permission, may I just clarify that point also ?

About thousand acres of land would be required for this particular project. But we find that only 385 acres of land has so far been acquired and out of the balance 615 acres, 325 acres is reported to be forest land and 290 acres is the Government land. So, clearance for these also will have to be ensured. I hope, the Hon. Member will think of that.

As regards the specific project asked in the earlier question, that is, Muddunuru Project, I am happy to say that the scheme has been techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority in its meeting on the 2nd November.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Kuppuswamy, do you want to say something about Vijayawada ?

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY : I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government will consider installation of small power stations in the capacity of 2.5 KW in the various districts of Tamil Nadu and especially in Coimbatore ?

MR. SPEAKER : Next Question.

Guidelines on Wage Policy of Public Enterprises

*46. †**SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :**
SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be

pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued any guidelines to the employees of public enterprises for evolving parameters of the wage policy ;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued ;

(c) whether these guidelines have been taken into consideration by the heads of the public enterprises when wage settlement are concluded by the management of individual enterprises ; and

(d) whether any complaints have been made by workers' organisations to the Ministry for flouting these guidelines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :
(a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Government have issued guidelines to the administrative Ministries and in turn to the enterprise managements to help them conclude wage agreement with their employees.

(b) According to these guidelines, the substantial portion of increases in Wage bills consequent on wage settlement are required to be absorbed by way of increase in productivity and other measures of cost reduction. It also envisages that targets of internal generation of resources and additional resource mobilisation should not get affected in anyway. The existing output norms are to be reviewed so as to achieve improved aggregate efficiency. It also lays down the limits of wage increases and tenure of the agreement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No such complaints have been received.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked in the main question whether the Government has issued any guidelines for the workers of public enterprises. It has been replied that the concerned Ministries have been issued guidelines which means that the Government