

As far as category-2 is concerned, as I said, a committee has been appointed to look into this and draw a list of essential drugs. They will be submitting their report within two or three months.

**SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :** What about my question Sir ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** I gave you a chance, Madam. You asked whether there should be a half-an-hour discussion and that for all. I did not stop you from asking your question.

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI :** Has it come to the notice of the Government that under the new categorisation some of the drugs which were exclusively kept for the public sector undertakings will now be opened for foreign companies also—for example, penicillin—with the result the public sector undertakings like IDPL will face a closure ? I understand some of the public sector undertakings have made this point to the Government. What is the reaction of the Government to it ?

**SHRI J. VENGAL RAO :** Sir, as far as penicillin is concerned at present we are producing only 30 per cent of our requirements. The remaining 70 per cent of our requirements we are importing. That is why in respect of penicillin we have liberalised the policy for manufacture by private companies.

**IOC Mobile Laboratories for Petroleum Products**

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\*9. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :**

**SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Indian Oil Corporation has recently launched a mobile laboratory for testing petroleum products in Delhi ;

(b) if so, the details of the petrol pumps etc., on which IOC conducted raids during the last one month ;

(c) what action has been initiated against the petrol pumps in Delhi which were found selling adulterated petroleum products ;

(d) whether Government propose to introduce such mobile laboratories in other cities also ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) :** (a) to (c). A mobile laboratory for testing of petroleum products in the Northern Region has been fabricated and positioned at Delhi by the Indian Oil Corporation but it has not yet become operational and hence the question of any action based on the reports of this laboratory does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Indian Oil Corporation has positioned mobile laboratories for use in the Eastern and Southern Regions also where they will soon become operational. Extension of this system will depend on the operational experience.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an acute problem of adulteration of Kerosene with diesel and petrol throughout the country. The farmers are not able to get kerosene, petrol and diesel that they get is adulterated, which causes damage to the engines. The most effective solution to the problem of adulteration is to punish those who are doing it. The Government must take appropriate measures in this regard.

A mobile laboratory was inaugurated

on 13th January and one month has passed since then yet that laboratory has not been made operational so far. I have an important question to ask in this regard. Is the Government going to pay more attention to it? I would also like to ask as to how many people are going to work in that unit and how many samples will be tested daily? A network of such laboratories should be set up in the country so that those who are involved in adulteration are punished and the consumers get the necessary relief. What are the schemes of the Government in this regard?

**SHRI BRAHMA DUTT :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that there should be a network of such laboratories in the country. We are setting up 4 mobile laboratories in the country, out of which one is positioned in Delhi. The question of calibration is involved here. Besides, we are making efforts to check adulteration by using other systems and we are taking several steps as a result of which this problem will be solved.

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** My question has not been replied to.

**SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :** He is not trying to reply to it, he is only dodging.

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Although the mobile laboratory scheme was inaugurated one and a half months ago, it has not started functioning so far. Why has it not been made operational? May I know the details of your future plans? How many people are going to work under the Laboratory Testing Scheme and how many on the spot sample tests will be undertaken?

**SHRI BRAHMA DUTT :** I have already mentioned that calibration work is being done at present. Its equipment and testing facilities are being calibrated and as soon as it is done, the laboratory will become operational. Moreover, testing work is being carried out in static laboratories as well.

**MR. SPEAKER :** How many persons are employed in it?

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** My second supplementary is whether there is any proposal for launching of such laboratories in big cities like Nagpur, Indore, Kanpur, etc. and if so, the time by which they will become operational?

**SHRI BRAHMA DUTT :** 4 mobile laboratories will be set up regionwise. There are enough number of static laboratories in the country.

[*English*]

**SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU :** Sir, adulteration of kerosene with petrol is the order of the day. The Government is adopting a policy of less consumption of petrol and diesel so that we can minimise the loss for the nation. Sir, at the same time, the companies like the Indian Oil Corporation, the Bharat Petroleum and also the Industan Petroleum are issuing surplus to the outlets and petrol pumps to sell more. Is it with the concurrence of the Government that they are adopting this policy of selling more?

**SHRI BRAHMA DUTT :** Government policy is to conserve petroleum products. But when the outlets are there, they have to sell more because they are commercial concerns. The policy is of conserving the petroleum products by using the efficient machinery but not by reducing the quantity of petroleum products.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the percentage of the cases where adulteration has been found in the petroleum products tested by the static laboratories? Besides, it has been found that most of the adulteration cases are not identified and the static laboratories are not functioning well and the officials who are supposed to look into such complaints remain in collusion with the guilty persons and consequently, no action is taken.

My second question is that there are no Central Government officials at the district level. There are only State Government officials who are designated as D.S.Os. The State Government does not have the power to take any action against the culprits. Will the Government set up some machinery to deal with cases of adulteration so that adulteration of diesel and petrol could be checked and stringent punishment could be awarded to those are found guilty ?

**SHRI BRAHMA DUTT :** Sir, I agree with the hon. Member's first submission. But the point is that it is the responsibility of the Central as well as the State Governments. The State Governments also undertake the distribution of essential commodities. In order to check this problem, we are trying to see if kerosene could be given a colour and it is being tested as well. Besides, our companies are also conducting inspections and the State authorities are also looking after this work. The system is being strengthened. After the setting up of the mobile laboratories, it would be further strengthened. What is needed most is that the system should be strengthened.

[English]

**Closing of Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh**

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\*11. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :**  
**SHRI B.N. REDDY;**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for closing down 60 post offices in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) to what extent frequencies of services will be affected due to this measure;

(c) how the people will avail of postal services; and

(d) whether this is an economy measure ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) :** (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

**Statement**

The number of post offices discontinued in Andhra Pradesh since 1-4-1986 is 69. These post offices were discontinued for one or more of the following reasons.

- (1) Postal business transacted in the post offices being insufficient to justify its further retention;
- (2) Location of the post office within a short distance (of less than 1.5 kms in urban areas and less than 3 kms in rural areas) from other post offices in the area; and
- (3) Post office not being financially self-supporting, in the case of urban areas.

Of the 69 post offices, 46 were departmental sub post offices of a subsidiary status known as town sub offices with no postal delivery functions. The counter services offered by these offices can conveniently be availed of at other post offices situated within the area. The remaining 23 are extra-departmental post offices, of which all but 2 were situated in towns/cities. These offices are also no-delivery post offices, the counter services offered by these offices are provided in the other neighbouring offices. The two rural post offices are also extra-departmental but with no delivery functions. In these cases also, there are other post offices in the area to provide adequate counter facilities. There has, therefore, been no dislocation of service whatsoever by the discontinuance of these post offices.

The action taken is not part of any special economy drive. Under the normal procedures also, the workload, cost and revenue of individual post offices and consequently, the justification for their further retention, are periodically reviewed. Post offices which are under-