

Fertilizers who are concerned with this part of question, have stated that for the purpose of price control, bulk drugs and formulations have been classified into four categories. In respect of three of these price-controlled categories, prior approval of the Government is necessary to any increase in prices. The question of any increase in prices of these categories on account of rivalry of the producers and chemists & druggists organisations, therefore, does not arise. As regards, Category IV formulations, although manufacturers are free to fix their prices, the Government have got power to revise the prices even in respect of this category if the overall profitability of the manufacturers exceeds the stipulated limit.

(b) and (c) The MRTP Commission is not a forum for arbitration. However, the Commission (which is a quasi judicial body) had instituted two *suo-moto* inquiries under Section 10 (a)(iv) of the MRTP Act, 1969, against the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists, Madras and its 8 affiliated State Associations. The first inquiry was instituted on 19.6.1981 on the ground that the said respondents had indulged in the restrictive trade practice of boycott in respect of certain drugs manufactured by M/s. Sarabhai Chemicals Limited, Baroda. The Commission came to the conclusion that the boycott indulged in by the respondents was a restrictive trade practice within the meaning of the MRTP Act, 1969. Since the boycott had already been lifted from 5th January, 1981 a general direction was given by the Commission to the respondents to desist from boycotting the drugs of any producer and/or any chemist and druggist not joining in the boycott organised by them.

The Second *suo-moto* enquiry was instituted on 29th September, 1981 on the ground that the said 9 respondents had indulged in the restrictive trade practice of boycott in respect of drugs manufactured by M/s. Smith Kline & French (India) Ltd., Richardson Hindustan Ltd., Cadilla Laboratories, Wockhardt Limited and East India

Pharmaceuticals Works Limited and several other manufacturers. In this enquiry also as the boycott had been lifted in the last week of May, 1982, the Commission gave a general direction to the respondents to desist from boycotting the drugs of any producers.

#### Communication Facilities with the Help of INSAT-IB in Maharashtra State

\*188. SHRI CHANDRABHAN ATHARE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the communication facilities in our country can be improved vastly with the help of INSAT-IB;

(b) if so, whether Government of Maharashtra will be helped with the facilities of this Satellite to improve the communication facilities of the State; and

(c) whether scheme have been drawn up in this regard and if so, particulars of the facilities that will be made available to Government of Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. INSAT-IB will provide reliable communication over long distance and to inaccessible places where other means of communication cannot easily be provided.

(b) An earth station at Thane is already working through which reliable long distance circuits are being provided to other parts of the country.

(c) For communication within the State of Maharashtra, use is being made of Terrestrial links, to be supplemented by Satellite connection, where necessary.

#### Restrictions on Filing Special Leave Petitions in Supreme Court

\*190. SHRI R. PRABHU : Will

the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases pending disposal in the Supreme Court has gone up considerably as on 1st January, 1983 as compared to the position as on 1st January, 1982; and

(b) whether Government propose placing any restrictions on filing of special leave petitions ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL): (a) The number of cases pending disposal in the Supreme Court as on 1st January, 1983 was 63041 as against 48643 cases pending disposal as on 1st January, 1982.

(b) No such proposal is under the consideration of Government.

#### Discovery of Oil and Gas in Krishna-Godavari Basin

\*193. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that oil and gas have been struck in the Godavari Basin;

(b) if so, the details with regard to the quality and quantity;

(c) the number of wells which are still to be dug in this region during 1984; and

(d) whether the work on these wells is going on as per schedule and if not, the difficulties being faced and steps taken to eliminate them ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SANKAR) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The commercial viability of the discovery in terms of quality and quantity is in the process of assessment.
- (c) During 1984-85 it is proposed to drill 9 locations in offshore area, and 10 locations in onshore area.
- (d) There has been some delay in the deployment of additional rigs in the onshore part of the basin because of the observance of certain stipulations regarding charter hiring drilling and third party services. These issues have largely been resolved and various contracts are at different stages of processing.

#### Expansion of Haldia Refinery

\*194. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has taken any decision for the expansion of Oil Refinery unit of Haldia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) to (c) Feasibility Report submitted by Indian Oil Corporation for expansion of the Haldia refinery from 2.5 MMTPA to 5.5 MMTPA is at an advanced stage of consideration.

#### Theft and Transmission Losses of Power in Kerala

\*195. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that transmission losses and theft and pilferage electricity in Kerala are very high;