

combat this disease, have complained that the medicine is not available. Therefore, I would like to know what steps the Government have taken in regard to indigenous manufacture and distribution of this essential drug. Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Orissa have got the maximum number of lepers. This disease is spreading to the cities also.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: On the question of manufacture of this particular drug, I had submitted earlier that the additional capacity has been licenced and certain of the concerns have registed themselves with the D.G.T.D. In respect of certain concerns, letters of intent have already been issued. If the hon. Member would like to have the list, I can give. M/s. Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., which is a public sector undertaking has the annual capacity of 15,000 Kgs. and M/s. Burroughs wellcome have a licenced capacity of 28,000 Kgs. per annum. This is the capacity of these two concerns. In regard to production, as I said, Astra IDL has been given the letter of intent and the production has already started and the position would be known after 1982-83. So far as the indigenous production of this drugs is concerned, there is going to be sufficient quantity in conformity with the demands in this country. We need not be unduly apprehensive about the availability of this drug on the basis of indigenous production after 1982-83. A question was asked with reference to marketing. There are different agencies and they are partly looked after by the Health Ministry. In the ultimate analysis, once the production is self-sufficient, I doubt whether we could say that the availability would be less. The distribution of the formulation through the Government is for the Government hospitals and through the commercial channels by the producers. That is the marketing aspect of it.

Setting up of Road Network Connecting several Towns with Medium Transmitters

* 530. **SHRIMATI M ADHURI SINGH:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the international telecommunications union has approved the setting up of a radio network connecting several towns with medium transmitters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) The decision taken by Government thereon and the time when the scheme would be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Regional Administrative LF/MF Conference of ITU, held at Geneva in 1975, had evolved a plan for utilisation of medium frequency band by various countries, fixing the frequencies and Powers of operation. India too has been allotted 780 channels for day time operation at various places in the country, out of which 500 channels have been authorised for night time operation also.

(c) The validity period of the ITU Plan expires in November, 1989. As the total investment on this would be very large, it has been decided by the Govt. to implement the plan in phases. In the 6th Plan period (1980-85), proposals to upgrade the power of transmitters at 12 centres and also to set up 12 new stations have been approved for implementation.

श्रीमती माधुरी सिंह: क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि इस स्कीम के अन्तर्गत एक केन्द्र को चालू करने में कितनी धनराशि खर्च करना होगी और इस स्कीम के लिए 1982-83 में सरकार ने कितनी धनराशि जारी की है और क्या चयनित धनराशि पूरी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति कर