

(Price Control) order, 1979 based on the studies made by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. Manufacturers are free to sell the bulk drug at prices not exceeding the maximum sale prices so fixed. No instance of any manufacturer selling the bulk drugs at prices higher than the Government notified prices has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) The prices of bulk drugs are constantly under review.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Is it not a fact that the annual rate of growth in the production of essential drugs has fallen during the last five years? Even the prices of simple medicines like muscle, relaxants congestants, mouth wash, throat cozenes and cough drops and digestive tablets have shot up by 50% to over 100% during the past one year. If it is so, then what system of licensing and promotion of drugs are being evolved by the Government to ensure that the essential and effective medicines are available in adequate quantities and at reasonable prices?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, I have mentioned in the statement that there has been no increase in the prices of drugs and that means that no medicine or drug has been sold at prices beyond what has been fixed by the Government.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Is it not a fact that the Development Commissioner (Drugs) has not been appointed for the last two years and therefore the prices of over 60% of the formulations fixed during the last two years have not been implemented by the manufacturers? Even the records of prices during the past two years are not available, the companies are taking benefit at the cost of the consumer because of delay in appointing the Development Commissioner (Drugs). So, may I know from the hon. Minister the reason for delay in appointing the Development Commissioner (Drugs)?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, it is not true that the post of the Development Commissioner (Drugs) has not been filled up. In fact, it is not vacant. It has been jointly held by the Joint Secretary....

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Is it a satisfactory arrangement? You should have a separate Commissioner.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : The 1978 Drug Policy did mention that we should have the post of the Development Commissioner (Drugs). But, for that, a lot of other infrastructures have to be created like the field authority which had to be created within the manpower available. That is why we have clubbed this post of Development Commissioner along with the Joint Secretary.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, by the end of this Century, the Government is going to eradicate leprosy and other diseases. The treatment for these diseases is of a prolonged nature. Therefore, I would like to know from the Government of India whether there is any proposal to reduce the prices of these vital drugs such as rifampicin which is a costly drug and which has to be used for the treatment of leprosy. I would also like to know from the Government whether they are going to give any reduction or concession for the production of these drugs like anti-leprosy drugs, anti-cancer drugs and anti-tuberculosis drugs.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : The Government is seized of the matter and the BICP has been asked to undertake a cost study. Once that report is available, we will consider reduction of prices.

Conference of Energy Ministers

*212. **SHRI V. TULSIRAM :**

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SHRI P. M. SAYEED :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of Energy Ministers of all the States was held in Delhi recently;

(b) the important decisions taken at the conference with particular reference to the Seventh Five Year Plan projects;

(c) the extent to which the demand for power is likely to be met by the end of the Plan; and

(d) the time by which the decisions arrived at will be implemented, particularly strengthening managements of State Electricity Boards and introduction of commercial accounting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference inter-alia decided that the State and Central organisations concerned should make concerted efforts to ensure commissioning of power projects according to schedule, the States will take requisite measures to increase power generation and improve the Plant Load Factor of thermal stations ; coal of appropriate quality and quantity will be supplied ; steps will be taken to reduce transmission and distribution losses and theft of electricity should be made a cognizable offence with deterrent punishment; steps should be taken to conserve energy ; and the management of State Electricity Boards should be strengthened.

(c) With the induction of new capacity it should be possible to meet approximately 95% of the demand by the end of the 7th Plan period.

(d) The State Electricity Boards are required to introduce commercial accounting from the year 1985-86. Targets for improvement in the Plant Load Factor and installation of new capacity have been laid down for 1985-86. The Conference did not lay down the limits for implementing its other decisions most of which require action on a continuous basis.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : As the hon. Minister might be aware, many factories are not running properly due to shortage of coal. Especially, I know about Andhra Pradesh ; factories are not running there to their full capacity due to shortage of coal. I want to know as to what target has been fixed in respect of generation of power for Andhra Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan and the time by which that target is expected to be achieved ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : The hon. Minister of Energy had assured all in the Power Ministers Conference that power stations would be supplied whatever quantity of coal they need and of whatever quality. For this purpose, a constant coordination between the Department of Power and the Department of Coal is maintained and as soon as information to the effect that some power station has run short of coal, is received the matter is taken up by the Department of Power with the Department of coal and every effort is made to ensure the supply of required quantity of coal. Approval has been received for creating additional generation capacity of 22,245 M.W. during the Seventh Five Year Plan and as I said in my reply it should be possible to meet approximately 95% of the demand by the end of 7th Plan period according to the report of the 12th Power Survey Committee.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr, Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that they are going to make special provision to check theft of electricity, but what happens is that only simple farmers or petty factory owners or businessmen are apprehended in this process. On the other hand, the big factory owners who are involved in large scale theft of electricity are never caught, they somehow manage to escape. Have you ever studied this situation ? I want to know whether Government propose to take some action soon against those involved in large scale theft of electricity ; if so, what are these steps and what law are you going to frame ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : The Central Government have expressed its concern on this issue a number of times. We have written to the State Governments a number of times and have told them that they should ensure that there is no theft of electricity, steps to minimise transmission and distribution losses should be taken, but mainly this has to be done by the State Governments.

I shall request the hon. Member, through you, to use his influence at least in his own State and motivate the State Government to take action against such people.

So far as the Conference of the Power Ministers is concerned, a suggestion was given therein that it should be made a cognisable offence by amending the Electricity Supply Act and that a provision for a deterrent punishment should be provided in it.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that with the induction of additional capacity of 22,000 M.W., the shortage would be met, but I want to say one thing that this demand would be met only when the project is cleared. For example, I would like to refer to Tehri Dam Project which has an estimated capacity of 2,000 M.W. This project was sent to the Government 1 or 1½ years back with the request that a joint authority comprising Central and State Government should be set up to complete it. Similarly, there is another project Lakhwah Tiami which has been cleared from all levels, but the Department of Environment is yet to clear it. Therefore, will the Government consider making such an arrangement under which all the concerned departments may give their approval at a time, because in the event of delay, while on the one hand we shall not be able to instal our additional capacity during the 7th Plan and on the other hand the cost of the project will also go up.

MR. SPEAKER : You leave all these things.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, so far as the question of additional capacity of 22,245 M.W. is concerned, it is based on the projects which have already been cleared by the C.E.A. and which have been included in the 7th Plan either in Central Sector or in the State Plans. With regard to Tehri, I want to say that this project has been approved as a proposal and thereafter it was included basically in the State Plan last year. But due to paucity of resources, the State Government has written to us that it should be taken up as a joint project. Since, it is not a Central project now—it is a joint project—it has to be executed in that way and the entire proposal is under consideration. We are having consultation with them and it will be our endeavour to execute it as soon as possible by constituting a body.

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister the number of such Electricity Boards in the country which have surplus power and those which are in deficit ?

MR. SPEAKER : How many of them are running in deficit, this does form a question, but how many are there in surplus, I do not find one such.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I do not have this information at the moment, I shall let the hon. Member know if you so direct.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri R.P. Das. Shri Chandra Shekhar Tripathi, Shri Jai Prakash Tripathi, Shri Mohanbhai Patel—absent.

Exploitation of coal reserve in Cambay Ocean bed

*217. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a huge coal reserve in the Cambay ocean bed ;

(b) whether any geological survey has been conducted in this regard ;

(c) if so, the estimated coal reserve ; and

(d) whether Coal India Limited has any plans to exploit coal from the depth ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY : (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : The hon. Minister is very emphatic in answering my question. If you look at my question, in Section (b), I have asked if any geological survey has been taken up. Unless a geological survey is taken up, it cannot be decided whether there is coal or not. Now, the answer says absolutely 'no'. Obviously, the Ministry says that there is no coal without finding it out. I would like to know whether the Government would like to rethink about the answer and look into the matter and then come with an answer.