

technology and the foreign technology, the choice where any foreign expertise or technology is called for, we will do so if it is absolutely necessary. We are firmly of the view that the technologists and the technology that are developed in the country also measure up to the best in the world.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, will the Minister be kind enough to inform whether the Engineers Association has made an offer to the Minister for Communications that within three months they can improve the communication system by about 50% more in terms of efficiency? If such an offer is there, what is the position at the consideration level?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : It is correct that such an offer has been made and I would like to place on record our high appreciation of the attitude shown by the workers in the Telecom. Department in making such an offer and we shall leave on stone unturned to see that the efficiency, with the help of the workers, is improved in the Telecom. Department.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, it is an important question. Please allow me.

After setting up the auto manual exchange in Calcutta, 4 employees have been admitted in the hospital because of "tele shock". What I want to know from the Minister is, whether the Government is aware that only to condemn the Central Government, this has been done. Whether it is a political conspiracy or sabotage and whether the Government have any proposal to set up a high-powered committee to review the whole situation and find out the real fault and protect the interests of the employees and the common people also?

(Interruptions)

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Let the Minister give the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Hon. Madam's question is important because I was present in Calcutta on that day, and I too received a shock.

MR. SPEAKER : Whenever Mamataji stands up to say something, you also stand up.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : It would also be appropriate for the hon. Member to tell us as to who caused this shock.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, this is a fact that there was some incident. But I am happy to inform that since yesterday most of the employees have come back and resumed their work and the problem which was there has been solved. We do not presume there is any sabotage there. And I do not like to comment on it. But the work is gradually coming to normal condition and I thank the Members of Parliament from both our Party and Opposition who have helped us to bring back normalcy there.

New Drug Policy

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*8. **SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :**
SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently announced a new drug policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) whether prices of some drugs have fallen as a result of the new policy and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND

PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Government have announced in December, 1986 certain measures for rationalisation, quality control and growth of drug and pharmaceutical industry in the country.

(b) Copy of the measures is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. LT/3734/87].

(c) The prices have not yet been revised since the new Drug Price Control Order has not yet been announced.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is due to the policy of the Government that medicines are not available in the market and patients are dying in the hospitals. (*Interruptions*) We shall observe 'Delhi Bandh' and we shall also silence you.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he cannot be blamed. He is still under the impression that he is standing at the Boat club.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the hon. Minister's reply to Part (C), I would like to ask why are the prices of the medicines not declining? When is their Drug Price Control Policy going to be announced?

[*English*]

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : I have answered in Part 'C' that the DPCO has not yet come into existence. It will come into existence only after the categorisation of Category-II for which an Expert Committee has also been appointed. We had expected that the Committee would submit its Report within three months. But it will take more time. Once that is submitted, then the DPCO will come into existence. Once the new DPCO comes into existence then the revised prices will be announced. As of now, there is no price increase or decrease.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Hon. Minister Sir, it is due to your policy that medicines are not available in the market and the essential drugs are also reported to be out of stock.

MR. SPEAKER : Medicinal herbs can be used instead.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : How many years will you take to announce the policy?

[*English*]

The prices have not yet been revised since the new Drug Price Control Order has not yet been announced.

[*Translation*]

When will that auspicious moment arrive? It is because you are manufacturing certain medicines in the Government factories that the private manufactures are not manufacturing them, which is resulting in the shortage. Hence, tell us as to when are you going to implement the policy?

[*English*]

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Because of various factors, as I have said earlier, it will take a few more months. Once the categorisation is over, the new DPCO will come into existence. Once that comes into existence, then the price issue will be decided.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : A book-let containing 19 pages has been given to us in reply. We require time to go through it. So, I would request that Half an-Hour discussion on this may be allowed.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : My colleague announced that we have not yet implemented this Drug Price Control Order. After

the Notification only we will announce the prices.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is I who will decide on the question of Half-an-Hour Discussion. Shri. Basudeb Acharia.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Sir, I would like to put the question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The earlier policy which was adopted in the year 1978 was based on the Hathi Committee Report. Although all the recommendations of the Hathi Committee were not adopted, nevertheless that policy attempted to stop the infiltration, and penetration and activities of multinationals in drug industry. That policy also encouraged indigenous production of drug in the country and also it discouraged the imports and encouraged the indigenous expansion of production of drugs by forming a drug price equalisation fund. Sir, I would like to know whether it is not a fact that by increasing the number of de-controlled drugs from 14% to 16% by this new policy—which was announced just after the winter session by-passing the Parliament—this will result in increase in the prices of all essential drugs.

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : Sir, the report of the Hathi Committee which was submitted to the Government in 1975 is still the basis for this particular measure, the measures of rationalisation, the measures of quality control, of growth in the drugs and pharmaceuticals industry which have been announced in December, 1986. These are based on the Hathi Committee report. There is no deviation from that.

The Hon. Member mentioned that the earlier policy in 1978 also did not adhere to a number of proposals which were put forth in the Hathi Committee report. It was a very large report wherein a number of suggestions were there. We could not implement all those suggestions in 1978.

All that we are now trying to do is to implement it a little more effectively.

The question of giving more leverage to multinationals has come up from a number of quarters. It needs a little bit clarification. In fact, the ratio of parameters for companies which belong to FERA has been reduced from 1.5 to 1.4. As a result of it; we have taken a much narrower view. Now we are trying to ask the FERA companies to go in for more production in the basic area. For every bulk drug that they produce, from the basic stage they will only be allowed now to produce 4 formulations instead of 5 formulations. Therefore, the question of giving more leverage to the multi-nationals does not arise. In fact, we have reduced the span of drugs which can be manufactured by the FERA companies.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He has not answered my question about the number of de-controlled drugs which has been increased from 14% to 16%. I would like to know whether this will result in increase in the drug prices.

SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH : We do not control the prices of the de-controlled drugs. Earlier we had three categories—Category 1, Category 2 and Category 3 ; drugs coming under those categories are price controlled. There was a category 4 also which was unspecified drugs and it was not controlled. Now in the new policy measures that we will have. Category-I consists of drugs which will be used for the national health programme. It depends on the policy framed by the Government from time to time to see which of the drugs will come under Category-I. Because the priority has been given to those of the drugs which will be used for the national health programme. For example, today we find that malaria is a problem in our country. After one or two years we may find that malaria has been eradicated. Therefore, all those drugs which are used for combating malaria disease will go out of the purview. So, it depends on the national health programme to determine which of the drugs will come under category-1.

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