

AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c). The Medical Experts who were Members of the Steering Committee of the National Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Development Council drew up the priority list bearing in mind the criteria adopted by UNIDO for inclusion of drugs in essential list and drugs in WHO list and the Hathi Committee list. The experts were free to include any drug in the priority list. The preliminary priority list which came to 133 drugs was subsequently abridged by them to 95. The medicines required by large majority of the people for the most, common diseases known, including those required by the National Health Programmes constitute the list. Those drugs were required in the country in abundance and should be made available at all times at regulated and reasonable prices. The consensus of the National Drugs & Pharmaceutical Development Council was that only priority bulk drugs and their formulations should be under price control

(d) Information (to the extent available) will be collected and laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Digital Telephone System in Patna Telephone Exchange

34. SHRI C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether digital telephone system has not been provided in Patna Telephone Exchange which was submerged in flood and since then has been not working satisfactorily; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to instal digital telephone system there soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Digital telephone system has been allotted in replacement of present Patna main telephone exchange which was submerged in flood. The existing exchange is being maintained with sustained maintenance efforts.

(b) The digital telephone system which stands already allotted is expected to be commissioned in about 3 years.

Effect of concession given to Cement Manufacturers

35. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY & COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed the cement manufacturers to apportion less as levy quota by an announcement made on June 5 this year;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) to what extent the industry is going to gain in money terms by this concession.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). In the context of the representations received from the Cement Manufacturers' Association to allow escalation on the retention prices of levy cement to compensate for the increase in the cost of inputs, Government had decided to reduce the levy quota from 65% of installed capacity in the case of existing cement factories to 60% of actual production and from 45% of installed capacity in the case of new and sick cement factories to 40% of actual production with effect from 4th June, 1985. Reduction in levy quota as indicated above, was announced by Government in accordance with their policy to contain inflationary trends likely to result if escalation in retention prices of levy cement is allowed and the need to cover the increase in cost of production of cement.

Setting up of Separate wing in ONGC and oil India for Exploration and Recovery of Natural Gas

36. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up separate wing in the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India for exploration and recovery of natural gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?