

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

ONGC Order for Manufacture of Rigs and Platforms by Mazagon Dock Ltd.

37. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has placed huge orders with Mazagon Dock Ltd. for the manufacture of rigs and platforms costing several hundred crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the MDL having limited capacity, are passing on these orders to sub-contractors, within and outside the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons for placing such huge order on an establishment having no capacity to meet the orders?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Orders commensurate with the capacity assessed in Mazagon Docks Limited for the manufacture of rigs, platforms, etc., have been placed.

(b) Sub-contracting is an essential part of any industrial activity. It is resorted to only where necessary and cost-effective and in respect of items for which the equipment and services are not available within the country.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b).

Natural Gas Find near Vasai, Bombay

38. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural gas is found in large quantity near Vasai, Bombay; and

(b) if so, the quantity available and the planning of its utilisation and where?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The structure produced gas approximately at the rate of 1.5 to 1.7 lakh cubic metres per day. Further exploratory work is in progress to assess the potential of production from this structure which would determine the future utilisation programme.

Indigenisation of foreign automobile firms collaborating with Indian firms

39. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for indigenisation of foreign firms which have entered into collaboration with Indian firms in automobile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and names of foreign firms to be affected as a result thereof together with their location in India;

(d) whether some foreign firms in Andhra Pradesh are also affected, if so, details thereof; and

(e) the amount of compensation to be paid to such firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir,

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Changes in Drug Policy of 1978

40. SHRI B.V. DESAI:

SHRI C.P. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has embarked on a comprehensive review of the Drug Policy of 1978;

(b) if so, the main changes that are likely to be made in the new Drug Policy;

(c) by what time the same is likely to be announced; and

(d) the main reasons for review of the Drug Policy of 1978?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (d), National Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Development Council have since submitted its reports on the Drug Policy to the Government. Government would take a decision on the changes/modification needed in the Drug Policy keeping in view all the relevant factors and various view points.

Losses Incurred by Public Sector Drug Units

41. SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI :

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public sector drug units incurred losses in 1984-85; (b) if so, the amount of losses incurred; and (c) the measures being taken to arrest such losses and to bring about improvement in their performance ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) (a) and (b) : Latest estimated losses incurred by Public Sector Drug companies during 1984-1985 are as under :

(Rs. in Crores)

1. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	26.28
2. Hindutan Antibiotics Ltd.	4.98
3. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	5.40
4. Bengal Immunity Ltd.	1.99

(c) The losses are due to various factors such as under utilisation of the installed capacity resulting from demand constraints and power/water shortage, technological problems, higher cost of production from basic stage and a product-mix predominantly comprising Category I and II bulk drugs and formulations with lower mark up.

Remedial steps being taken include plugging of loop-holes in Import Policy, which inhibit production and capacity utilisation, ensuring adequate availability of working capital, raw materials and intermediates and attempts to up-grade technology.

Improvement in the Functioning of Calcutta Telephone system

42. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken to improve the functioning of telephone system at Calcutta and the replacement of cross bar exchange;

(b) which are the new areas that are now being considered to come under Calcutta Telephone Jurisdiction during Seventh Plan; and

(c) whether industrially important 24-parganas can be considered for inclusion under Calcutta Telephone jurisdiction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Measures taken to improve the functioning of telephone system at Calcutta is attached. No local crossbar exchange is proposed to be replaced in the near future. A 400C line crossbar Trunk Automatic Exchange is proposed to be replaced by Electronic Exchange.

(b) No new areas are being considered to come under Calcutta telephone jurisdiction during the Seventh Plan.

(c) A major part of the industrially important area of 24 paraganas is already included under Calcutta telephone jurisdiction.

Improvement measuras, long-term and short-term, contemplated to improve the telephone services :

1. Introduction of sophisticated electronic telephone exchanges to avoid problems inherent with electromagnetic switching equipment used hitherto.