

**Embezzlement in Post Office Dhameta,
District Kangra**

4825. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sub-postmaster of Post Office Dhameta, District, Kangra (H.P.) in the year 1985 embezzled funds earmarked for pensioners of Defence Personnel and widow pensioners;

(b) if so, the details thereof, amount embezzled and action taken by Government in the matter; and

(c) whether Government have received any complaints from the public in 1985 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes Sir, but no amount was due to any of the Military pensioners and widow pensioners.

(b) The Sub-Postmaster embezzled funds to the tune of Rs. 5530/- in the year 1985 by showing fictitious arrears of pension. The entire amount has been recovered. The delinquent official has been transferred to another Post Office and action against him is under contemplation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

**Reduction in production of essential
drugs**

4826. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of drug companies have reduced the production of essential drugs and are producing non-essential drugs ;

(b) the names of the drugs falling under categories I and II whose production has come down considerably ; and

(c) the reasons for short fall in the production of these bulk drugs and formulations based on those drugs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Production of a particular drug by a company depends on its demand and corporate plans of the company.

(b) and (c). Among the monitored category I and II bulk drugs, the production of Dapsone, Di-iodohydroxyquinoline, Iodochlorohydroxyquinoline, PAS and its salts, Penicillin, Amodiaquin, Analgin, Phenobarbitone and Sulphadimidine was lower in 1984-85 in comparison with 1979-80. This was due to drug obsolescence as well as the lower mark-up for category I/II formulations under the Drug Price Control Order, 1979.

Overseas Construction Project

4827. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has examined the norms followed by TCIL (Telecom Consultants India Limited), vis-a-vis the procedures laid down by O.C.C. (Overseas Construction Council), Ministry of Commerce regarding the overseas construction projects ; and

(b) whether there is any difference in the approach followed by TCIL and the implications thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The Ministry has not issued any guidelines for offering civil construction works contracts in telecommunication sector abroad. TCIL is following the general principles adopted by Government of India as also the guidelines from Bureau of Public Enterprises.

(b) There are no common areas between TCIL and O.C.C. and there are no conflicts in the principles and functions of these two Organisations.

Rihand Super Thermal Power Project

4828. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has awarded the Rs. 1200 crore Rihand Super Thermal Power Project to a British turnkey contractor against the advice of its own consultant adviser ;

(b) if so, the circumstances under which the said contract was awarded to the said contractor ; and

(c) the level at which the decision to award the contract to this contractor was taken ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). The Rihand Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is being executed with U.K. assistance. The contract for supply and erection, in respect of the Project, was awarded to M/s. Northern Engineering Industries (NEI) of the U.K. in September, 1982 after negotiations between the U.K. Authorities and a Committee constituted on the Indian side. The recommendations of this Committee were approved by the Board of Directors of the NTPC and the Govt. of India for award of contract to M/s. NEI.

Coal projects shelved due to non-availability of World Bank Loan

4829. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether at the Annual General Meeting of the Coal Consumers Associa-

tion of India held in January, 1986, Government representative stated that the World Bank has not agreed to give loans for the new coal projects on the ground that coal price in India is substantially lower than that of any major coal-producing country in the world ; and

(b) if so, the details of new coal projects that have been shelved due to non-availability of World Bank loans ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Writ petitions pending in Supreme Court regarding constitutionality of Muslim Personal Law

4830. SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of writ petitions pending in Supreme Court on the constitutionality or otherwise of the Muslim Personal Law as a whole or specific parts thereof ;

(b) whether Government have filed their statements in all these cases ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) It is not possible to ascertain the number of writ petitions pending in the Supreme Court on any subject unless the Government is made a party and a copy of the writ petition is sent to it. The Registry of the Supreme Court has also intimated that statistics about the pendency of the total writ petitions is available but no information about the subject matter of the pending writ petitions would be available. However, the Central Government has received notices in three writ petitions which *inter alia* challenge the validity of unilateral pronouncement of *talaq* enforced by the courts in favour of Muslim men, the non-availability of a right to adopt by