

technology, industrial development of backward areas, provision of infrastructural facilities by the States, implementation of Letters of Intent and medium and small scale industries registered with DGTD and Directorates of Industries, problems relating to sanction and disbursements of term loan and working capital, maintenance of quality and standards, supply of raw materials and inputs and monitoring of date relating to industrial sector. A number of useful suggestions made on these subjects were noted.

Mechanisation of Telegraph System

4051. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to completely mechanise the country's telegraph system has been drawn up ;

(b) if so, the main objects of the plan ; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: (a) Yes, Sir. An Action Plan to mechanise the country's telegraph system has been drawn up.

(b) The main objective of modernisation of the telegraph network is to deliver 98% of the telegrams within a period of 12 hours. The plan envisages development and commissioning of Store and Forward Message Switching Systems and terminal devices like Electronic Key Boards, Electronic Key Board Concentrators, Phonocom Concentrators and replacing of existing electro-mechanical teleprinters by electronic teleprinters.

(c) The Action Plan is likely to be implemented in three years time.

Suggestions by French Telecommunication experts for Improvement in Telecommunication system

4052. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the French Telecommunication experts have suggested a number of measures to improve the Indian Telecommunication system ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). No direct suggestions for improving the Indian Telecommunication system have been received. However, the French Telecommunication Experts have assisted in the introduction of E-10B Digital exchanges in the country in the following fields :

(i) Acceptance Testing of E-10 B equipment

(ii) Operation and Maintenance

(iii) Training

(iv) Network Planning

Agitation against New Drug Policy

4053. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the national convention held in New Delhi 9th January, 1987 in which the delegates from Indian Medical Council and the employees of public sector drug companies participated, has termed the New Drug Policy announced in December 1986 as "anti-people and retrograde" ;

(b) whether the unanimous resolution adopted at the end of the convention, deciding to launch a countrywide agitation, has been noted by Government ; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken to tackle the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b).

Reports to this effect appeared in the newspapers.

(c) There is no justification for any agitation.

Licences for manufacture of Penicillin and Polio Vaccine

4054. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of units in private, joint and cooperative sector which have sought licences for the manufacture of Penicillin and polio-vaccines ; and

(b) the details of the quantum of these medicines likely to be produced by each one of these units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R.K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The names of the companies who have applied for licence for manufacture of Penicillin along with the details of capacity are given below. No company has applied for licence for polio vaccine.

| Name of the Company (Private Sector) | | Capacity (in MMU) |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Standard Medical Leasing Ltd. | — 1,200 |
| 2. | Kesar Enterprises Ltd. | — 1,000 |
| 3. | I. A. Modi | — 1,000 |
| 4. | Dr. Reddy's Labs. | — 1,000 |
| 5. | G. Rama Raju | — 1,000 |
| 6. | Cepharm Medical Leasing Ltd. | — 1,000 |
| 7. | Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd. | — 1,000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------------|---|---------|
| Joint Sector | | |
| 1. | Gujarat Lyka Organics Ltd. | — 1,000 |
| 2. | Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation (SPIC) | — 1,000 |

Losses in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and Bharat Coking Coal Limited

4055. SHRI A. JAYAMOHAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether out of six coal producing subsidiaries, the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., are continuously incurring losses ;

(b) if so, steps proposed to minimise such losses ; and

(c) whether in view of the alternative sources of energy having been found successful, Government propose temporary abandonment of the losing mines ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various measures being adopted to increase production and improve productivity in the coal companies include opening of new mines, fuller utilisation of mining capacity already created, more efficient use and better maintenance of equipment, stricter control of inventory and economy in the use of stores, better use of manpower by controlling absenteeism and enforcing discipline and identification of surplus workers and their redeployment after suitable training, better availability of inputs like explosives, timber etc., reduction in pit-head stocks by faster movement and more systematic distribution, expeditious and timely completion of new projects and improvement in law and order situation.

The Coal India Limited and Eastern Coalfields Limited have been directed to