

posal has, however, been received in the Ministry for setting up a joint venture from the British Gas Company.

[*Translation*]

Adulteration in Petrol and Diesel

2241. SHRIGULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give the powers of investigation against traders indulging in adulteration in petrol and diesel with kerosene to police and Department of Civil Supplies

(b) if so, the details in this regard.

(c) the number of cases of adulteration registered against petrol and diesel dealers in Rajasthan during the last one year, and

(d) the number of persons convicted on this account and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M S GURU-PADASWAMY) (a) and (b) Powers to take action against traders indulging in malpractices in essential commodities have already been delegated to State Governments/UTs under the E C Act, 1955

(c) No case is reported to have been registered in this regard

(d) Does not arise

Dam on Badhakar River

2242. SHRI R L P VERMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether the project of constructing a dam on Badhakar river in Bhalpehri (Gandey block) under Giridih District of Bihar has

been pending for several years with Damodar Valley Corporation;

(b) whether Government propose to provide necessary funds to the Damodar Valley Corporation for constructing the dam on the Badhakar river;

(c) if so, by what time; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (d). The Damodar Valley Corporation had sent the Project Feasibility Report for Balpahari Dam to the participating Governments of Bihar and West Bengal in November, 1987 for their concurrence. The Government of Bihar has not shown interest in the Project as there is no water in the Damodar-Barakar basin in Bihar's quota. The Government of West Bengal has also not conveyed its concurrence to the proposal so far.

Patratu and Barauni Power Plants

2243. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable decline in the power production of Patratu and Barauni power plants in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to tide over the shortage of power in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) During April, 89—February, 90, generation of power at Patratu and Barauni power plants in Bihar has been 96.6% and 62.2% respectively, as compared to the same period last year.

(b) The main reason for low generation is due to long duration outages of various units. In order to tide over the power shortage in Bihar, a number of measures have been taken which include expediting commissioning of new generating capacities, implementation of short gestation projects, implementation of centrally sponsored Renovation & Modernisation programme for improving the performance of existing power stations, reducing transmission and distribution losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures, arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas, intensive monitoring of the grid operations and coordination of power supply position in the region, etc.

[English]

Availability of Life Saving Drugs in Kashmir Valley

2244. PROF. SAIF-U-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any reports regarding non-availability of life saving drugs in Kashmir Valley during February, 1990; and

(b) if so, the remedial action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Profits by Public Sector Units

2245. SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the profits incurred by the public sector units during the first half of current financial year;

(b) the profits earned by oil industries sector and non-oil industries sector, separately; and

(c) how these compare with profits incurred during the corresponding period of last year?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) According to the provisional unaudited figures received from 178 out of 22 operating central public sector enterprises the total net profit earned during the first six months of 1989-90 was Rs. 1103.25 crores.

(b) and (c). Net profits/losses of 178 central public sector enterprises during the first six months of 1989-90 as compared to 179 enterprises from who information was received during the corresponding period last year in the oil and non-oil sectors based on their provisional unaudited figures were as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

	Net Profit (+) / loss (—)	
	1989-90	1988-89
Oil Sector	(+) 1312.61	(+) 1036.53
Non-Oil Sector	(—) 209.36	(—) 342.34
Total	(+) 1103.25	(+) 694.19