

(d) the price fixed for its formulations when the drug was under price control and its present price?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d). Glybenclamide has been exempted from price control on a specific recommendation made by the Kelkar Committee in its Supplementary Report, a copy of which is available in the Parliament Library. As per available information, the price of Glybenclamide Tablets (5 mg) was fixed by the Government at Rs. 8.88 (10 x 10's) under DPCO-1987. As per MIMS India, December, 1989, its present price is Rs. 1.50 (10's Strip).

Flaring of Natural Gas

165. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN.
SHRI YADVENDRA DATT:

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

(a) whether large quantity of natural gas is being flared at Bombay High, Assam, Tripura, Cauvery and Godavari basins;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Southern State Governments have suggested setting up of a regional gas grid to enable these States to utilise the surplus gas; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). Details of gas production/flaring from various areas in the country are as given below:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Production</i>	<i>Flaring (in MMCMD)</i>
Bombay High	40.92	13.66
Assam	6.00	1.84
Cauvery	0.32	0.21
Krishna Godavari Basin	0.11	0.01
Tripura	0.08	Nil

(c) and (d). The State Governments of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu had requested that a gas pipeline be constructed to transport gas from Western Offshore Region to the South. An interministerial committee is being appointed to examine the various issues pertaining to establishment of a Southern Grid.

Doubling of Shoranur-Mangalore Railway Line and Other Lines in South Zone

166. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposal to double the Shoranur-Mangalore Railway line;

(b) if so, when the work is likely to commence;

(c) the total estimated cost thereof;

(d) whether Government also propose to double any other lines in Southern Zone; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No such proposal at present.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Doubling of Kayankulam-Quilon (BG) and Tambaram-Chengalpattu (MG) sections is in progress.

Doubling of Quillon-Trivandrum (BG) section will be considered in the coming years.

Upgradation of Trivandrum Airport

167. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-CHANDRAN:
SHRI T. BASHEER:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received fresh proposals from Kerala Government for upgradation of Trivandrum Airport;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the average weekly number of international passengers to which Trivandrum airport caters; and

(d) the reasons for not declaring this airport as international airport?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d). Since the existing four international airports at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras are sufficient to cater the needs of international traffic, the Government is not considering any new proposals.

(c) The average weekly number of international passengers to which Trivandrum airport caters is 5285.

Setting up of Cement Plants In Rural Areas

168. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called upon the cement industry to improve productivity and ensure its availability in the rural areas;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up cement plants in rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to make available cement in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c). In the recent meeting of the Development Council for Cement Industry, the Cement Industry has been asked to improve its productivity. The industry has also been asked to adopt more innovative marketing policies to generate increasing demand for cement in rural areas. Cement is, however, freely available throughout the country at a price determined by the operation of market forces.

Most of the cement plants either existing or under implementation are located in rural areas where adequate limestone deposits of suitable grade have been established. As a policy, cement plants in the organised sector are encouraged only in rural areas.

International Airport at Srinagar

169. SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: