

(a) whether there has been a remarkable reversal in the oil policy of Saudi Arabia as a result of which oil prices have stumbled recently; and

(b) its repercussion on Indian purchases and how India proposes to avail of this dip in oil prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of such a development. However, the market situation is watched constantly in order to derive maximum advantages in our purchases.

Steps to modernise public sector pharmaceutical units

2095. DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Will

the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the indigenisation programme for bulk drugs, their rationalisation and quality control chalked out as follow-up of the Drug Policy announced recently; and

(b) the steps being taken to attain greater efficiency and modernisation in the public sector pharmaceutical units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Relevant details are given in the Statement-I below.

(b) Relevant details are given in the Statement-II below :

Statement-I

As a follow up of the "measures for Rationalisation, Quality Control and Growth of Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry in India." The following action has already been taken.

- (i) A four member expert committee has already been set up to determine parameters for phased manufacturing programme aimed at indigenisation for each bulk drug.
- (ii) A Committee under the Chairmanship of State Drug Controller, Gujarat is already looking into the question of rational use of drugs.
- (iii) For better quality control, rules in respect of good manufacturing practices and certification scheme are being framed.

Statement-II

IDPL, BCPL, SSPL & BIL are expected to finalise their rehabilitation plan shortly and these are expected to include inter-alia modernising to the extent required to make them economically viable. HAL have already formulated their rehabilitation plan which is under implementation. Main features of their rehabilitation plan are as follows :-

- I Acquisition of improved technology and to bring down their input cost.
- II Maximising the existing capacity and creation of additional capacity for

penicillin 'G' 1st crystals and other penicillin bulk at minimum cost to spread over from fixed cost over a higher volume.

- III Making best use of available manpower by deployment to various plants.
 - IV Reduction in their power and fuel costs.
 - V Reorganisation of their marketing organisation to facilitate better co-ordination, close monitoring for achieving improved marketing performance & strengthening market research and sales promotion functions.
2. A task force to prepare a perspective plan for next 15 years for public sector pharmaceutical industry has also been constituted.

National Power Grid

2096. DR. B. L. SHAILESH :
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is planning to develop a massive national power grid by interlinking the various regional grids;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposed national grid;

(c) its capital outlay; and

(d) how long will it take to implement this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (d) The Government of India have accepted in principle to gradually evolve the National Power Grid. Such a grid is an evolutionary process requiring appropriate inter-connections and strengthening of the various State systems and the Central Sector transmission lines. As a step towards formation of the National Grid, Regional Electricity Boards have been set up to accelerate the process of integrated operation of the regional systems.

NTPC are developing an extensive extra high voltage transmission system

associated with their generation projects, and certain inter-regional links which would form part of the National Power Grid.

Placing of orders for transformers with Crompton Greaves Ltd. by Bhakra-Beas Management Board

2097. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhakra-Beas Management Board continues to place orders for transformers with the Crompton Greaves Ltd., ignoring the BHEL whose product has made its mark in quality and reliability; and

(b) if so, the guidelines laid down in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) According to the Bhakra Beas Management Board, transformers are purchased on the basis of tenders invited through the press or through limited enquiries from reputed manufacturers. Orders are placed on the lowest bidders keeping in view the technical suitability and desired specific action parameters. BHEL also participates with other firms in such purchases on a competitive basis.

(b) Does not arise,