

(b) if so, whether they have been told to bring down the prices of essential drugs to the levels prescribed by the Drug (Price Control) Order, 1979, and

(c) if so, the reaction of the drug companies thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R K JAICHANDRA SINGH) (a) In some cases, increases in price has been allowed as per provisions of DPCO, 1979

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Elimination of private contractors from Coal Mines

4657 SHRI VIJAY N PATIL Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have taken a policy decision to eliminate private contractors in coal transport from coal mines

(b) the number of workers engaged by private contractors in various coal mines and

(c) whether Government propose to provide employment to workers who become surplus consequent upon the elimination of private contractors?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) (a) A policy decision was taken to departmentalise coal transportation in Bharat Coking Coal Limited. Other coal companies are also taking up departmentalisation of coal transport to the extent if it is found feasible

(b) The number of workers engaged by private contractors in the various coal companies was 42, 884 as on 1 4 1987

(c) No, Sir

Memorandum from Abbott Laboratories Employees' Union

4658 SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether he has received a memorandum dated 20-10-1986 from Abbott Laboratories Employees' Union Bombay, complaining about the alleged misuse of loan licences system by M/s Abbott Laboratories (I) Ltd.

(b) if so the action taken by Government thereon

(c) whether it is a fact that the Abbott products are being manufactured by third parties

(d) if so whether the standard and quality of products is being maintained

(e) whether the company has suspended its manufacturing operations at its Kurla factory from 26-11-1986 and

(f) if so, the reason thereof and the steps taken by Government to ensure supply of drugs during the period of suspension of production in the above factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R K JAICHANDRA SINGH) (a) Yes Sir

(b) to (d) The system of loan licensing is regulated under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules which are administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through the State Drug Control Authorities

(e) and (f) The relevant information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House