

**Applicability of liberalised licensing policy to drug industry**

236. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent liberalisation of the licensing policy is applicable to the drug industry, including MRTP, FERA and ex-FERA companies ; and

(b) if not, the reasons for excluding these companies from the benefits of liberalisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) & (b). Liberalisation measures include faster disposals of applications for industrial approvals and de-licensing. For all categories of companies, applications for industrial approvals are being disposed with greater expedition. The scheme of de-licensing, however, is applicable to non-FERA/non-MRTP companies only.

[*Translation*]

**Alternative sources of fuel**

238. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to find alternative sources of fuel following increase in the prices of oil ;

(b) if so, the alternative sources of fuel found since 1982 to date ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) Biogas, Energy Plantations, Briquetted Residues, and solar cookers for cooking, alcohols like ethanol, and methanol, Solar, biomass and wind sources for power in rural areas in lieu of diesel

and electric vehicles have been developed. Work is continuing to utilise these sources wherever feasible and also to develop more economical systems.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

**Toning up of coal management**

240. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether coal is becoming costlier day by day because of poor quality of management, and because it is a case of administered price ; and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to tone up the management ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) & (b). Increasing cost of coal is on account of various factors, some of which are beyond the control of management, such as, escalation in the cost of capital goods, inputs and stores, increase in wages and other benefits, increase in the cost of petroleum products and freight and increase in depreciation and interest charges. However, management also plays a crucial role in making the working of mines and productivity of coal more cost efficient. This can be done by better utilisation of capacities of plant and equipment, adoption and utilisation of modern technology, better inventory control, involvement of the labour in management and improved cooperation, reduction and deployment of surplus labour, training of the personnel, reduction in pit-head stocks and improvement in transportation, production of quality coal and its supply to the consumers, etc.

Improvement in management so as to make it result-oriented is a continuous process and Government is laying special emphasis in this sector.

**Vacancies of judges in Supreme Court and High Courts**

241. SYED SHAHABUDDIN :  
PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :