

National Dailies Controlled by Industrial Houses and Political Trusts

7317. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the foreign money and unaccounted money accumulated by different national dailies controlled by the industrial houses and political trusts;

(b) if so, what are the names of newspapers and what is the amount involved; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct investigations to safeguard independence of news media from interference of pressure groups?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). No general assessment has been made in the matter. Necessary investigations are, however, conducted in the income tax assessments of the owners of the individual dailies whenever unaccounted funds come to notice during scrutiny of their accounts.

(c) Government are concerned with the independence of the news media and the Press Commission will go into the question of safeguarding the independence of the Press against pressures of all kinds.

Release of canalised raw materials on the basis of licence capacity

7318. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any proposal to restrict the releases of canalised raw materials to the level of licensed capacity in all the cases and if so, time by which this would be done;

(b) whether it is a fact that releases of Ampicillin Anhydrous in favour of Cadilla has been recommended on the basis of provisional capacity fixed for all the items taken together instead on the basis of past consumption or 1976-77 releases; why deviation in the policy has been made in this case; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to allow releases of canalised raw materials to the extent desired by the manufacturers on the basis of overall licensed capacity approved in their favour, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) As part of the New Drug Policy, Government have decided to issue a consolidated licence to each of the DGTD units wherein capacities for formulations based on a particular bulk drug are to be indicated in terms of quantum of that bulk drug. Once this is done, the releases of canalised bulk drug would automatically get linked to the entitlements as per licensed capacities in the case of DGTD units.

For the purpose of issuing consolidated licenses, data have been called for from the concerned units. While some of the units have responded, others have yet to respond. The data so received calls for detailed examination and in certain cases, frequent exchange of correspondence with the companies. Moreover, the issuance of consolidated licenses also calls for amendment of certain provisions of ID&R Act, 1951. In view of this, it is difficult to indicate the time by which the work regarding issuance of consolidated licences would be completed.

(b) Upto 1977-78, M/s. Cadilla Laboratories were treated as a small scale unit. Late in 1977-78 a COB licence was issued to this company following the change in their status