

the Government of Madhya Pradesh, till 3.8.1990, 1,35,458 bank accounts have been opened in favour of the beneficiaries of the scheme.

(c) The compensation amount for the Bhopal Gas victims has not yet been finally decided as the matter is sub-judice before the Supreme Court.

DPEA Notices to Companies

1941. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue notices, under Drug Prices Equalisation Account to selected 100 Companies then there are more than 10,000 pharmaceutical producers;

(b) whether any complaints of discrimination in issuing the DPEA notices to the companies have come to the notice of Government;

(c) whether issue of DPEA notices has dampening effect on the production of essential drugs in drugs and pharmaceutical industry resulting in a big set-back in new investment and widening the gap between demand and supply of essential drugs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to create a climate of confidence in drug industry for its healthy growth?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Notices have been issued only in those cases which fall within the scope of paragraphs 4 & 7 of DPCO, 1979 and paragraphs 14 and 15 OF DPCO, 1987, and the judgements of the courts. The question

of any discrimination, therefore, does not arise.

(c) Notices for recovery of overcharged amounts and unintended benefits have nothing to do with the investments, as such investments have to be financed from the legitimate financial resources of the company and not from the unauthorised gains which do not belong to the producers. There is adequate production and availability of essential drugs in the country.

(d) Before finalising the amounts due in accordance with the due procedure of law, opportunity is also given to the concerned company for bringing out discrepancy, if any.

[*Translation*]

Purchase of Raw Material by Nepa Ltd.

1942. SHRI AMRATLAL VALLABHDAS TARWALA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepa Limited, Napanagar had entered into contract with the Government of Maharashtra to purchase raw material (bamboos) from Dhulia (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, the quantity of bamboo to be purchased under this contract;

(c) the date upto which the entire quantity of raw material was to be lifted by the Nepa mill as per the contract;

(d) if the entire quantity has not been lifted, the remaining quantity thereof and the extent of loss to the Mill as a result thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (e). Nepa Limited has entered into contract with Government of Maharashtra to purchase raw material (bamboo) for about 16,178 notional tonnes. However, upto 10.7.1990 (before the commencement of monsoon), a total quantity of 4,997.62 notional tonnes of bamboo was felled and transported and the felling work for the remaining quantity could not be taken up as some of the contract areas come under the sub-mergence zone of Sardar Sarovar Dam and the mass agitation by Narmada Bachao Andolan activists was going on. The matter has been taken up with the Government of Maharashtra for allowing suitable extension of time to collect the bamboo during the next working season or refund the amount deposited with the Government of Maharashtra (Forest Department).

[English]

Memorandum of Understanding Signed by National Thermal Power Corporation

1943. SHRI P. M. SAYEED:
SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Government in order to generate more power;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projects planned to be undertaken and the time by which additional power is likely to be generated and supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed recently between the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and the Department of Power for the year 1990-91 envisages a generation target of 46475 million units, a capacity addition programme of 312 MW and construction of transmission lines of 1880 circuit kms. during the year. The MOU also envisages target for total sales and profit before tax during the year for Rs. 2429.72 crores and Rs. 257.18 crores respectively.

(c) The units programmed to be commissioned during the year, are as under:

One unit of Auraiya Gas Based Power Project	102 MW
One unit of Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project. ..	210 MW
	312 MW

Commercial generation from such units usually take place after six months from the dates of commissioning.

[Translation]

Decline In Coal Production

1944. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production in coal mines is on the decline;

(b) if so, the present position of coal industry in the international sector and its position five years ago;

(c) whether Government propose to provide some assistance to promote and encourage the coal mines;