

पर्याप्त सुधार हुआ है। परिणामस्वरूप टी० बी० निरोधी स्ट्रेप्टोमाइसीन इंजेक्शन की ब्याम तीर पर कोई कमी नहीं है तथापि यह सम्भव है कि कुछ विशिष्ट ब्राण्डों की कमी-कमी कम सप्लाई हो सकती है।

SHRI K. A. RAJAN : It seems the Hon. Minister is highly optimistic about the over-all supply position of anti-TB drugs for 1978-79, but I am very doubtful because of the performance. The whole crux of the problem in this area is the increased demand in excess of the production and installed capacity. If you go through the figures of our requirements for the year 1978-79, it is estimated that the country's requirements of streptomycin is 330 tonnes and last year our production was only 207.86 tonnes. As it is, there is a gap or shortage of nearly 123 tonnes. This shortage can be built up only in two ways—either by fully utilising the capacity of the existing plants or by import. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he has got a long-term perspective in this matter and in what way he is going to fill up the gap of 130 tonnes shortage in 1977-78.

The Minister of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : I do not agree with my Hon. friend about the production figures given by him. Indigenous production in the year 1976-77 was 214.85 tonnes, in 1977-78 it came down to 199.92 tonnes and 1978-79 it is estimated to be 215 tonnes. The imports which we tried to build up during this period was 32 tons in 1976-77, 29 tonnes in 1977-78 and 80 tonnes in 1978-79.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN : Still, a gap is there

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : Yes, it is accepted that the indigenous capacity which has been licensed has not proved equal to the job. 'Alembic' is the worst defaulter. Though their licensed production capacity was 20 tonnes, they could not produce more than 1.48 tonnes.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN : Why ?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : Well, I think that when Alembic was approved long ago, that was a wrong date, a wrong time and a wrong decision. Everything coupled together, to give them a wrong technology, perhaps. I am sure they are not going to produce even this just now, and we are chasing them to find out what should be done in this particular matter.

Then, there are three more. Hindustan Anti-biotics Ltd. has been producing above its rated capacity this year. The Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals has been in difficulty because of common area usages which has run into difficulties due to the new technology being introduced in other fields of anti-biotics and, therefore, there is a fall in production in IDPL. It will soon, in 1979-80, be all right. So far as Hindustan Antibiotics and Synobiotics, are concerned, they are doing very well. Some of the multinationals are really doing formulations—Pfizer, Glaxo and others. They have been given according to their actual use in 1976-77 because separate capacity for formulation is not mentioned. It is these people who are trying to get more and more of this without fulfilling their corresponding responsibility which they had for building up this type of bulk drug, which they have not done. But I can assure the House that this year we have made it absolutely sure that there shall be no shortage of anti-TB drugs, a very important antibiotics

Mr SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Reduction in Election Expenses

*491. **SHRI K. S. VEERA BHADRAPPA :** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether any suggestion has been received by Government regarding the reduction in the election expenses ;

(b) whether any suggestion has been received to the effect that some tangible financial assistance in kind in terms of printing of identity cards, posters and publicity material and provision of petrol coupons for each candidate should be afforded by Government so that no candidate is handicapped in preparation for elections for want of minimum resources ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposals for grant of certain facilities at Government expense, to the candidates at elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies, have been received. These proposals *inter alia* include supply of printed cards giv-

ing the registered number of a voter in the electoral roll and the polling booth where he may have to cast his vote along with the names and symbols of candidates which should be made available to all voters, supply of posters and publicity material and the supply of petrol coupons

(c) These proposals are under examination

Availability of oil and Natural Gas in the Naga Thrust Region

*495 SHRI CHILLA BASU Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that there exists highly promising structures with potential availability of oil and Natural Gas in the region called 'Naga Thrust' and

(b) if so the steps to accelerate the drilling operations in the area ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI NARSINGH YADAV) (a) Yes Sir Oil on some structures such as Digboi, Geleki and Borholla—along the 'Naga Thrust' line in the Eastern Region has already been found. A number of other promising structures have also been delineated for exploratory drilling

(b) In order to intensify the exploration work the number of drilling rigs deployed by the ONGC in the Eastern region is being increased from 9 in 1978-79 to 14 in 1979-80 and 17 in 1982-83

Broadcast of Regional News Bulletin of Punjab from Rohtak

*498 SHRI BAIWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the regional news bulletin of Punjab is broadcast only from Jullundur and Chandigarh and not from Rohtak, if so, the reasons therefor,

(b) what are the reasons for ignoring the 40 per cent Punjab news listeners of Haryana and Delhi,

(c) whether he is considering a proposal for the broadcasting of Punjab Regional News bulletin at 6-10 P.M. from Rohtak also as the transmitter at Jullundur is weak and these news can only be listened from Rohtak, and

(d) if this bulletin is continued from Rohtak also what extra expenditure has to be borne by AIR ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) (a) to (d) AIR Rohtak broadcasts the regional news bulletin only in Hindi because Hindi is the main language of the area covered by that Station. The Punjabi-speaking population of Haryana and Delhi was, as per the 1971 Census Report number 834 per cent and 13.25 per cent respectively, can listen to the Regional Punjab news bulletins relayed from Jullundur because they come well within the first-rate listening range of its 50 KW medium wave transmitter. It is not proposed to relay the Punjab regional news bulletin from AIR Rohtak because of its other programme commitments

Napha Jhakari Hydel Project and Kol Dam Project in Himachal Pradesh

*499 SHRI DURGA CHAND Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether Central Government have approved Napha Jhakari Hydel Project and Kol Dam Project in Himachal Pradesh,

(b) if so the details thereof

(c) at what cost each project is likely to be constructed and what would be the Central and State's contribution to each of the projects separately,

(d) when the work will start on these projects and in how many phases the work will be completed and

(e) when both the projects will be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN) (a) to (e) At a meeting held on 5.2.1979 with the Chief Ministers and Power Ministers of J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan it was decided in principle to take-up the execution of Napha Jhakari and Kol Dam Project subject to finalisation of the estimates, technical clearance, financial allocations etc.

Doubting output of alloy and special steel

*500 SHRI KUMARI ANANTHAN Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) action taken on the suggestion of the Working Group that the alloy and special steel sector should double its output to meet the growing demand,

(b) whether the electric arc furnace sector has diversified its production from mild steel pencil ingots, and