

Increase in Drug Production

*382. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made by Government to know how far the New Drug Policy and the Drug Price Control Order have been effective in increasing the drug production and in the availability of life saving drugs at reasonable prices besides restraining the drug manufacturing companies in reckless profiteering;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the deficiency, if any, identified in the implementation of the New Drug Policy and the Price Control Order; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government in this-regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) Effectiveness of Policy inputs as provided through announcements on Drug Policy and of Drug (Prices Control) Order from time to time is evident from the fact that the country is today in a position to meet about 70% of its requirements of bulk drugs and almost all its requirements of formulations. There have been no reports of any persistent shortages except for some particular branded products for which therapeutic equivalents are normally available. Through experience gained over the years, drug policy has been evolved taking into consideration changes in Industrial Policy, Import Policy and Fiscal Policy and Policy currently followed has been brought in consonance with these changes through "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" announced in September, 1994 followed by Drugs (Prices Control) Order announced as recently as January, 1995.

Educational Satellite Channel

*383. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to launch a round-the-clock educational satellite TV Channel with focus on adult literacy and elementary education programmes;

(b) if so, whether Government have set up a committee to work out its modalities and identify the transponder for the said channel; and

(c) if so, by when this new channel will come into force?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The Government considers that the possibilities of operationalising an Educational TV Channel should be seriously explored. A formal Committee under the Department of Education and an informal group formed by Doordarshan are looking into various operational aspects of this proposal. The recommendations of the group are eagerly awaited. No specific time-frame regarding the coming into force of this new Channel can be indicated at this stage.

Seminar on Culture

*384. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-day Seminar on 'Culture' was organised by Government in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether extensive debate over the Assamese ethos took place in the Seminar;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some objectives have been achieved from this Seminar; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir, The Department of Culture has not organised any such Seminar.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Irrigation Facilities in U.P.

*383. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KAHN AZMI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that irrigation facilities in U.P. are insufficient;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) As per the latest Land Use Statistic 1992-93 (Provisional), brought out by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, in Uttar Pradesh, against the total cultivable area estimated at 20,838 Thousand (20,838,000) hectares, net irrigated area was assessed at 11,322 Thousand (11,322,000) hectares, which is 54.3% of the total cultivable area. The major reasons for gap between total cultivable area and net irrigated area is inadequate financial outlays for on-going Projects and consequential delay in their completion.

(c) To increase irrigation facilities in the country, including Uttar Pradesh, during Eighth Five Year Plan, States are being persuaded, *inter-alia*, to (i) avoid thin spreading of plan outlays, (ii) complete Major & Medium projects early, (iii) give priority to speedy completion of ongoing surface water Minor irrigation schemes, (iv) implement conjunctive use of surface and ground

water, (v) make Command Area Development Programme more effective and, (vi) put emphasis on Science & Technology components through Research & Development efforts in the field of water management through appropriate agencies.

Socio-Economic Development of Women

*386. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps which have since been taken to implement the scheme for socio-economic development of women as pronounced by the Prime Minister on the Independence Day this year; and

(b) the further steps being taken and the pain of action evolved in this direction; indicating the provisions made therefor under the Eighth Five Year Plan and that proposed for the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Department of Women & Child Development in implementing Indira Mahila Yojana, which was announced by the Prime Minister. It is being implemented in 200 Blocks of the country.

(b) Preliminary steps like preparation of guidelines, model bye-laws, manual etc. are completed. States and UTs have been asked to form Indira Mahila Kendras and Indira Mahila Block Societies, prepare block-wise Action Plan and District level Indira Mahila Plans. Part of the funds to the States have been released. As the Scheme was started as a pilot project in 200 blocks in the year 1995-96, a provision of Rs. 12 crores has been made to cover the pilot project blocks. Expansion of the scheme and