

also effected Government expenditure on that account; and

(d) what steps have been taken to get formulation at cheaper prices after arranging for their imports which cost Rs.1850/- per kg. only?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO):

(a) Rifampicin (150mg.) capsules are purchased on DGS&D rate contract for use under National TB Control Programme. The quantity of Rifampicin (150mg.) capsules purchased during 1987-88 and 1988-89 are as under : —

Period	Qty. in lakh capsules
1987-88	80 lakhs
1988-89	150 lakhs

(b) The import of Rifampicin is allowed under the Appendix 3A (list of limited permissible items) of the Import & Export Policy 1988—91. Recently, M/s Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited have been allowed an import of 12 tonnes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Import of drugs is regulated by Import & Export policy 1988—91 which has been placed on the Table of the House.

Allotment of Kerosene Oil to Kerala

4528. **SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any allotment of kerosene oil has been made to

Kerala by the Central Government during the last three quarters of the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala has been allocated kerosene oil during the first three quarters of the current year in accordance with the existing kerosene allocation policy, the details of which are given below :—

Quarter (1988)	Total allocation (in tonnes)
January—March	59481
April—June	55511
July—September	58910

Merger of Pandharpur and Sholapur Divisions with Aurangabad Division

4529. **SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pandharpur and Sholapur Divisions of Posts and Telegraphs are to be merged with Aurangabad Division; and

(b) If so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH):

Department of Posts

(a) There is no proposal to merge Pandharpur and Sholapur Postal