

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of medicines have gone up from 100 per cent to 300 per cent; and

(d) if so, what are the names of the medicines which have come to the notice of Government where the prices have gone up from 50 per cent to 300 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Government has reduced excise duty from 15 per cent to NIL for Category-I drugs and from 15 per cent to 10 per cent for Category-II drugs of DPCO, 1987.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Some of the manufacturers of non-scheduled drugs have increased the prices.

(d) A list of formulations wherein prices have gone up is given in reply to U.S.Q. No. 635 for 29-2-88. Similarly a list of bulk drugs (both scheduled & non-scheduled) wherein prices increased is given in reply to U.S.Q. No. 641 for 29-2-88.

Collection of telephone bills by banks

2664. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the arrangement of various banks with the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited for collecting telephone bills in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the sansadiya South Branch of the State Bank of India has not yet been authorised to collect telephone bills;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government propose to authorise the Sansadiya South Branch of the State Bank of India to collect telephone bills?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE):

(a) Sir, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has authorised a total of 83 branches of the following Nationalised Banks in Delhi to collect telephone bills:

1. State Bank of India,
2. Punjab National Bank, and
3. Indian Overseas Bank.

(b) Sansadiya South branch of State Bank of India has not been authorised to collect telephone bills, but Parliament House (sub office) branch of State Bank of India has been authorised.

(c) and (d) Parliament House (Sub Office) branch of State Bank of India is located in close proximity of Sansadiya South branch. In view of this, Sansadiya South branch was not authorised.

Targets fixed for Oil India Limited

2665. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil India Limited has failed to achieve almost all the targets fixed for it for the current financial year, according to a recent study by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for the failure of OIL to utilise its plan outlay fully; and

(c) what steps Government contemplate to take to see that the fixed targets are achieved in full by OIL?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Based on the current assessment, Oil India Limited (OIL) may not be able to achieve the targets of crude oil production and drilling during the year 1987-88. However, in respect of other activities

such as seismic surveys, LPG production, natural gas production, reserve establishment, etc., OIL is likely to achieve the targets set for it.

(b) The main reasons for inability of OIL to utilise plan outlay fully are:

(i) Non-receipt of some capital equipment, back-up equipment, etc. during the year.

(ii) Delay in receipt and commissioning of drilling and workover rigs and consequent savings in drilling outlay.

(c) OIL's performance is being reviewed continuously by Government. Suitable steps have also been taken to tone-up the management of the company.

Strike by I.O.C. employees

2666. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 30,000 employees of the Indian Oil Corporation went on a token strike in January, 1988;

(b) if so, what were the demands of the employees of the IOC;

(c) to what extent their token strike had hit the supply of cooking gas in the capital; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government towards the demands of the employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFTQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Approximately 23,000 employees of the Indian Oil Corporation went on one day's token strike on the 20th January, 1988;

(b) and (d) The Unions of the Indian Oil Corporation were demanding early finalisation of the Long Term Settlement under negotiation with them, with Interim Relief sanctioned to workmen in the Public Sec-

tor Undertakings to be taken as basic pay for all purposes. Government is also interested in early finalisation of the long-term wage settlement;

(c) There was no LPG refill supply to Delhi market on the day of the strike.

Reference of Ethylstrenol in the Kelkar Committee Report

2667. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2338 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th November, 1987 and state the reasons for not giving any specific reference of Ethylstrenol, Nandrolone, Phenyl Propionate and Decanoate by Kelkar Committee in the Report when these drugs have sales turn over of more than Rupees three crores each and single formulator is enjoying more than 70 per cent share of the market of these drugs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): These drugs are neither in the recent WHO list of essential drugs nor the list of 166 drugs considered by Kelkar Committee for inclusion in Category-II drugs.

Telephone exchanges in Gujarat

2668. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the new telephone exchanges set up in various parts of Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) what are the details regarding the new telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in Gujarat during the next three years; and

(c) what are the plans for converting manual telephone exchanges into electronic telephone exchanges in Gujarat and how many exchanges have already been converted into electronic ones?