

resigned or submitted their resignations; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether the resignation of the Managing Director of the Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals has since been accepted; if not, what are the reasons thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :**  
(a) and (b) The resignation submitted by Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited and Managing Director, Bhopal Immunity Limited have been accepted and they have already been relieved.

The resignation submitted by the Managing Director, Smith Stanistreet and Pharmaceuticals Limited as well as making suitable alternative arrangements are being processed.

#### **Import of Caprolactam**

156. **SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have curtailed/restricted the imports of caprolactam, a basic raw material required by the nylon industry for producing nylon yarn and tyre cord, despite the fact that the indigenous supply is insufficient to meet the requirements; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment to know how far the restriction imposed is likely to affect the production planning of the nylon industry beside its growth; and

(c) whether Government would reconsider its decision in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :**  
(a) to (c) As per Import and Export Policy 1985-88 the import of caprolactam is allowed under the limited permissible category. The quantities permitted to be imported are determined taking into account the availability from indigenous sources.

#### **Demands for telephone connections**

157. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment of the demands for telephones in the country by the end of this century has been made by Government;

(b) whether any special programme has since been chalked out by Government to meet the same; and

(c) if so, the number of new telephone exchanges likely to be opened by 2000 A.D. in the country and how much of funds have been allocated in regard thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :** (a) Yes, Sir. Estimated demand of telephones in the country by the end of this century is 300 lakh connections.

(b) No, Sir. Financial constraints are adversely affecting the development of the Telecommunications sector.

(c) It is not possible at this stage to indicate the number of new exchanges expected to be commissioned by 2000 A.D. in the country. An allocation of Rs. 4010 crores for the 7th Plan only has been made.

This will enable the department to provide about 11 lakh new connections. No allocation of funds beyond the 7th Plan has been made.

### Shortage of anti-TB drugs

158. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there is an acute shortage of anti-TB drugs in the country and its production fall short of requirement by one third;

(b) if so, what is the total annual requirement of anti-TB drugs in the country at present ;

(c) what is the annual production of such drugs in the country at present; and

(d) what action Government has taken or propose to take to boost the production of anti-TB drugs in the country and to meet the requirements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) to (c) There is no shortage of anti-TB drugs. Indigenous production and availability in the country are tailored to market demand. The production in the organised sector of anti-TB drugs during 1985-86 was 762.80 tonnes.

(d) The Government has already delicensed the production of anti-TB drugs. In addition, to encourage the production of the two important anti-TB drugs, namely, Ethambutal and Rifampicin, custom duty concessions have also been extended.

### Modernisation programme of Department of Posts

159. SHRI CHITTA BASU :  
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to undertake a modernisation programme for the Department of Posts ;

(b) if so, what are the details of the programme :

(c) whether such programme would result in the joblessness of a large number of postal workers; and

(d) if so, what steps are being contemplated by Government to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Seventh Five Year Plan envisages schemes to increase the efficiency of Postal operations involving a total outlay of Rs. 39 crores towards mechanisation and modernisation of Postal Services. The different schemes, as provided for in the 7th Five Year Plan, outlay are as follows :

(Rs. lakhs)

- |  |      |      |
|--|------|------|
| (i) Machines for Counter                                   | 55   | aids |
| (ii) Mechanisation of Mail handling at metropolitan cities | 2375 |      |
| (iii) Bag de-dusting equipment                             | 25   |      |
| (iv) Regional Workshops and departmental printing press    | 660  |      |