

approved a project of Hindustan Teleprinters Limited (HTL), Madras, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Communications for manufacture of 8000 numbers Electronic Teleprinters per annum, at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 crores including a foreign exchange component of * Rs. 2.36 crores. HTL have signed a collaboration Agreement for transfer of technology for manufacture of electronic teleprinters with M/s. SAGEM of France. The ultimate capacity of manufacture of 8000 numbers is expected to be achieved by the end of fourth year of production. The Agreement shall be valid for a period of 10 years from the effective date.

Villages connected by Telephone .in State of Bihar

1253. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Bihar which were connected by telephones during the year 19-84; and

(b) what is the district-wise number of villages where Public Call Offices are to be established during 1985? »

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Four hundred and ten villages of Bihar have been connected by Long Distance Public Telephones during the year 1984-85.

(b) The number of villages for provision of Long Distance Public Call Offices during 1985-86 are being finalised.

Sale of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation, Haldia to Private Concern

1254. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH;

SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempt is being made to sell the Haldia unit of Hin-

dustan Fertilizer Corporation to a private concern;

(b) if so, what are the names of the private companies who have shown interest for the purchase;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the process of the sale, a trade secret for preparation of soda ash given to our country by a Socialist country, is being revealed to a private concern; and

(d) if so, whether the original terms of technology transfer permit such transfer to private companies?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) No. Sir. No company has made any offers of purchase of the Unit.

(c) and (d) The question does not arise.

Recommendation for Drug Price Control

1256. DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA; SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medical experts appointed by the Steering Committee constituted by his Ministry did not draw up the list of 95 drugs for price control and recommended other drugs for price control, if so, how the National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Development Council based their decision, to price control only 95 bulk drugs on their recommendations;

(b) whether it is a fact that essential medicines such as Thiopentone Sodium, Baralgon Keton, Analgin, Dextropropoxyphene, Phendozocaine, Tetramisol, Pyrantel, Intestophe-ne, Tinidazole, Adviamycin and.

many other life saving drugs have not been included in price control list and if so, what were the basis and whether the effect of such a decision was studied and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the annual sales turnover of each therapeutic group covered under present price control and what is the percentage of each item recommended for price control?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) No.

" Sir. The Medical experts who were Members of the Steering Committee of the National Drug and Pharmaceutical Development Council did draw up a list of 95 priority drugs.

' The medicines required by the large majority of people for the most common diseases known including those required by the National Health Programmes constituted the list. Thiopentone Sodium, Baralgon Ke-ton, Analgin, Dextropropyphene; Phendozocaine, Tetramisol, Pyrantel, Intestophene. Tinidazole Advia-mycin do not figure in the list of 95 priority drugs.

(c) Over 70 per cent of the bulk drugs and formulations produced in the country are now subject to price control. Details of annual sales turnover of present therapeutic groups under price control and the percentage of annual sales turnover of priority list of drugs to the aforesaid percentages are not available.

Arrest of the Treasurer of GPO at Amritsar

1256. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the treasurer in the General Post Office at Amritsar has been arrested for looting a sum of Rs. 35 lakhs from the strong room of the G.P.O.;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether the stolen money has once been recovered; and

(d) if not, what action has been taken by Government against the treasurer and other officers of the G.P.O. involved in the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MISHRA): (a) No, Sir. It is the Assistant Treasurer who has been arrested.

(b) The Assistant Treasurer of the Amritsar Head Post Office had, somehow managed to obtain duplicate keys of the locks and safes of the turnover of present therapeutic Rs. 35 lakhs from the Treasury Safe in the night of 31-3-85 after strangulating the Chowkidar. The case has been reported to Police and the Assistant Treasurer has since been arrested.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Gas leak threat to Pune

1257. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to a news item captioned 'Gas leak threat to Pune alleged' published in the 'Times of India' dated the 27th March, 1985;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that a private firm in Pune is engaged in packaging the insecticides 'Sevin' under the supervision of the staff of the Union Carbide's Bhopal plant;

(d) whether it is also a fact that MIC is used in the manufacture of this pesticide; and

(e) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (e) A unit of M/s. Kamdhenu Pesticides, located at