

from the basic stages as well as from penultimates?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir. Categorisation depends on the process

adopted. That a drug is being produced by Indian companies is by itself not a reason for review since many high technology bulk drugs are also produced by Indian companies.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The details showing name of drug, number of organised sector companies producing from basic, intermediate, penultimate etc. stages

| S. No. | Name of drug | No. of Organised Sector Companies producing from | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|--|--------------|-------------|
| | | Basic | Intermediate | Penultimate |
| 1 | Trimethoprim | .. | 5 | .. |
| 2 | Sulphamethoxazole | 5 | .. | .. |
| 3 | Salbutamol | 2 | .. | .. |
| 4 | Metronidazole | 8 | .. | .. |
| 5 | Diazepam | 3 | .. | .. |
| 6 | Calcium Gluconate | 5 | .. | .. |

Letter of Intent for manufacture of Salbutamol

*319. SHRI K. V. R. S. BALA SUBBA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 651 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th August, 1981 and state:

(a) the reasons for granting letter of intent to M/s. Glaxo Laboratories for the manufacture of Salbutamol in 1974 when it was known that out of 32 items of bulk drugs, the company was not producing as many as 21 items, some of which were being imported in the country;

(b) the reasons for which the proposals of CIPLA concerning Tinidazole and Thiamine Propyl-disulphide were rejected; and

(c) the reasons for which a multinational company is being shielded now by stating that non-implementation does not constitute a ground for the grant of licences for additional items?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Salbutamol being an important drug not then produced in the country and the application from Glaxo who had the technology being the first for its manufacture, the application was accepted.

(b) The proposals of M/s. CIPLA concerning Tinidazole and Thiamine Propyl-disulphide were rejected in 1978 on the ground that out of 24 industrial licences for the manufacture of various drugs, the production shown against 19 licences was less than 3 per cent of their licensed capacity.

(c) As far as Salbutamol is concerned, the issue now is the conversion of the letter of intent into a licence. In taking a decision on applications for letters of intent for the manufacture of drugs, considerations such as the need for the production of the drugs have also to be taken into account.

Exploration of Off-Shore Areas

*320. SHRI LADLI MOHAN
NIGAM:

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:

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

(a) whether Government propose to undertake on-shore and off-shore exploration for petroleum resources;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposals in hand at present; and

(c) what progress has been made so far in respect of each of them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Oil exploration in the on-shore and off-shore areas is in progress and will be continued with vigour.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION

On Shore

For oil exploration, 28 seismic parties are deployed in on-land areas at present, out of which 8 parties are employed in Gujarat, 3 in the Cauvery basin, 4 in the Krishna Godavari basin, one in Rajasthan, one in U.P., 2 in Bihar, 4 in West Bengal, one in Tripura and 4 in Assam. The ONGC are planning to increase the number of parties to 30 and also modernise the equipment of a number of seismic parties for the coming field season. Apart from this a contract has already

been entered into with the CGG of France to conduct seismic surveys in the Jammu and Himachal foot-hills. Also a Russian crew will conduct seismic surveys in the Tripura Hills and deltaic West Bengal along with an Indian Team.

Currently 14 rigs are deployed for drilling in Gujarat, 14 in Assam, 3 in Tripura, 2 in West Bengal and 2 in the Godavari basin to carry out exploratory and development drilling. One well in Tripura is being drilled on contract by Soviet experts.

Off Shore

Offshore exploration is being carried out in the Bombay High and Satellite structures, Andamans and Pondicherry Offshore areas and Palk Strait. Seismic surveys have been carried out in the entire continental shelf and are being extended to continental slope areas also. Exploration is planned in the offshore Krishna-Godavari basin, offshore Cauvery basin, Offshore Andamans, Offshore Kutch, Offshore Saurashtra besides Bombay High and satellite structures. Exploration in the shallow water area of West Bengal is also planned within the Plan period. Seismic surveys have just been concluded and the data is under processing.

OIL INDIA LIMITED

Oil India is continuing its exploration and drilling operations in its mining lease areas in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

In the Mahanadi on-land, seismic work is expected to commence in the last quarter of 1981. OIL propose to retain M/s. D. R. McCord, Specialist Consulting Group of USA for re-interpretation of the seismic and well-data and identification of derillable location for the Mahanadi offshore area.

In order to supplement the efforts of the ONGC and OIL, selected blocks are proposed to be leased out to reputed foreign oil companies on suitable terms.