

(c) 14 Letters of Intent and 3 Industrial Licences have been granted to foreign drug companies for the production of bulk drug/formulations during the last 3 years. Details regarding names of items and capacity approved are given in the Statements. [See Appendix CXX. Annexure No. 28].

Import of Methacarbamol

790. SHRI K. V. R. S. BALASUBBA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request for ban on import of Methacarbamol has been received by his Ministry; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) M/s. Chemical, Industrial and Pharmaceutical Laboratories Ltd. represented for placing a total ban on the import of Methacarbamol on the ground that they were in a position to meet the full demand of the country. The representation was considered. It was decided that since indigenous production was inadequate to meet the country's demand, no change in the Import Policy in regard to this drug be made.

Advertisements to Regional Newspapers

791. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have announced to give due weightage to the newspapers published in regional languages in the matter of advertisement;

(b) whether it is also a fact that English dailies though lesser in circulation get priority in advertise-

ments as compared to the papers in the regional languages;

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

(d) what action Government propose to take to eliminate the difference between English and regional newspapers in the matter of issuing advertisements?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (MISS KUMUD-BEN M. JOSHI): (a) No, Sir. However, the advertising Policy effective from 1-10-1980, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House, provides for certain relaxations regarding eligibility criteria. In the matter of advertisement rates also language papers have been brought at par with English papers in the same circulation range.

(b) No, Sir. Government advertisements are released keeping in view the nature of advertisements and the readership intended to be covered so as to get the widest coverage.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Defective billing of Telephone calls

792. SHRI K. C. SEBASTIAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the defective billing of telephone calls;

(b) what is the total number of complaints alleging excessive billing of telephone charges received from Telephone Subscribers in Delhi Telecom. Circle/Telephone District during the last three years;

(c) what are the procedures adopted to dispose of such complaints of excessive billing;

(d) what steps have been taken to keep accurate metering equipments; and