

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION**362. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :****SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON:****Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :**

(a) what was the target fixed for rural electrification in the Fourth Five Year Plan;

(b) what is the progress made in rural electrification so far in the Fourth Plan period; and

(c) whether the target is likely to be achieved by the end of the Fourth Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):

(a) The emphasis during the Fourth Plan continues to be on the energisation of pumpsets. The electrification of villages is subsidiary part of this programme. With the Plan outlays of Rs. 444 crores, it was expected to energise 12.5 lakhs pumpsets. While no targets were specified for electrification of villages it was expected that consequent to energisation of pumpsets about 50,000 villages would be electrified in the country.

(b) About 57,100 villages have been electrified and about 10 lakhs pumpsets energised in the country upto December, 1972 during the Fourth Plan period.

(c) It is expected that by and large the targets would be achieved by the end of the Fourth Plan.

SETTING UP OF DRUG PRICES CONTROL BOARD**363. SHRIMATI SITA DEVI:****SHRI N.G. GORAY:****SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI:****SHRI SITA RAM KESRI:****SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY:****SHRI N.R. CHOUDHURY:****Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Drug Prices Control Board;

(b) the functions of the proposed Board and when the proposed Board is likely to be set up; and

(c) the names of the members of the Board and from which date the Board will start functioning and the powers which are likely to be given to this Board?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) to (c): No, Sir. Consequent on the issue of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970 Government appointed a Drugs Prices Review Board on the 28th July, with the following composition:

Chairman

(i) Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals.

Members

(ii) Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Health and Family Planning.

(iii) Joint Secretary,
Deptt. of Internal Trade,
Ministry of Industrial Development.

(iv) Drugs Controller (India),
Directorate General of Health Services.

(v) Industrial Adviser,
Directorate General of Technical
Development.

(vi) Chief Cost Accounts Officer,
Ministry of Finance.

Member-Secretary

(vii) Deputy Secretary,
Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals

The functions of the Board are as follows:-

(i) to examine the revised price lists as furnished by the industry under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order and to recommend refixation wherever necessary;

(ii) to examine representations against the fixation of prices of bulk drugs and to recommend fair selling prices;

(iii) to consider and report on issues arising out of the alternative scheme of pricing as provided in the Price Control Order;

(iv) generally to keep watch over the drug prices, basic and formulated; and

(v) to consider and report on such matters as may be specifically entrusted to it by Government.

SETTING UP OF A NEW FERTILIZER UNIT

364. SHRI M.K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a new Rs. 80 crores fertilizer unit for replacing the major part of the Nangal Fertilizer Factory; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) :

(a) and (b): Government have decided to implement the expansion of the Nangal Fertilizer Factory. This project, when completed, will have a capacity of 900 tonnes of ammonia per day; out of this, 600 tonnes of ammonia will be utilised for production of 1000 tonnes of urea per day and the balance would be diverted to the existing plant. With the implementation of the expansion project, the requirements of power of the existing unit will be substantially reduced. The total estimated

cost of the project is about Rs. 75.60 crores.

The World Bank (IDA) has agreed to grant a loan of 58 million to finance this project.

FOREIGN COLLABORATION IN OIL EXPLORATION

365. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:
SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow foreign collaboration in oil exploration schemes ;

(b) if so, the details of Government's decision in this regard and the precise terms of collaboration offered to the foreign collaborators; and

(c) whether any foreign collaboration offers have since been received, if so, the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) :

(a) to (c) : Some foreign companies have in recent months, expressed interest in participating in oil prospecting in off-shore areas and a few of them have also given outlines of their proposals for such collaboration. It is proposed to consider collaboration with foreign parties on the basis of 'General Contractor Type' of arrangement in a few off-shore areas. It is not in the public interest at this stage to disclose the names of the companies who have expressed interest nor to disclose the terms offered.