

village panchayats and mobile medical units. Steps were also taken to stock the essential drugs in the primary health centres and district hospitals.

(iii) Action was also taken to prepare vaccine at the Central Research Institute, Kasauli and the Pasteur Institute, Coonoor to keep reserve stocks to meet the demands.

**MALHOTRA COMMITTEE REPORT ON PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM**

484. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN:

SHRI G. P. SOMASUNDARAM:

SHRI KANCFII KALYANA SUNDARAM:

SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASHAM:

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

(a) whether the seven-member committee headed by Shri M. M. Malhotra has submitted any report on the production of petroleum; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) A study Group, of which Shri M. M. Malhotra, Chief of Economics and Statistics Division, was the Convenor, was constituted not to report on production of petroleum but to study the additional refining capacity in the country upto 1975 and related matters.

(b) The Committee studied, *inter alia*, region-wise product demand, availability of crude from all indigenous sources including offshore areas and Iran Offshore, the costs of transport requirements for transport of products, expansions of public sector refineries and the need or otherwise of a hydrocracking unit.

**NATIONALISED BANKS**

485. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN:

SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASHAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main features of the decision taken by the Co-ordination Committee of the Nationalised Banks;

(b) whether any common Policy has been evolved in regard to the Bank's contribution to the loans floated by the State Governments and other agencies; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The Coordination Committee of public sector banks, which is a forum for discussing matters of mutual interest, has met twice so far. The major decisions taken at these meetings were about setting up an Inter-Bank Service Bureau for dealing with common problems relating to Organisation and Methods, appointment of Study Group to evolve a suitable procedure for inter-bank drawing arrangements, devising steps to prevent unhealthy competition among public sector banks, enforcing stricter financial discipline in respect of major borrowers, setting up a Study Group to go into the question of certain major public sector accounts and the working norms for lending rates, designing a form for survey under the 'Lead Bank' scheme, fixing interest rate on deposits of religious and charitable institutions and such other matters.

(ib) No, Sir. This matter was not discussed at the Co-ordination Committee meeting.

(c) Does not arise.

**W.H.O. FINDINGS ON LEPROSY**

486. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a finding of the W.H.O. that leprosy is curable and preventable and that isolation of patients is costly and unnecessary; and