

(vii) The Ministry of Industry is finalising amendments to the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act which would, inter alia, enable the enforcement of additional conditions and issue of consolidated licences to the drug industry.

(viii) Directives have been issued to the Registrar of Trade Marks, on the abolition of brand names in respect of the specified drugs.

(ix) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1979 has been issued incorporating the decisions on pricing of bulk drugs and formulations.

(x) Sole selling agencies for drugs and formulations (except for exports) have been abolished by a Notification of the Company Law Board.

Wind up the Ministry of Rehabilitation

800. SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN
MONDAL: SHRI JAHARLAL
BANERJEE: SHRI PRASANJIT
BARMAN;

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to wind up the Ministry of Rehabilitation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

High Power Committee on Soda Ash

801. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the High Power Committee on Soda Ash has submitted its

report, and if not, by when it is likely to do so;

(b) whether the Standing Committee on distribution of Soda Ash has been able to evolve a fool-proof system of distribution of Soda Ash to stop black marketing of the material; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether Government have taken any new steps in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Standing Committee on Soda Ash meets periodically to review the production, availability and distribution of Soda Ash. Since there is no statutory control over the distribution of Soda Ash, this Ministry has issued guidelines to all manufacturers of Soda Ash which ensure that all industrial consumers who were taking this material direct from the manufacturers continue to get at least the quantity they got in 1977, a year of normal supply. As a result, about 80 per cent of the Soda Ash produced by the manufacturers is going direct to industrial consumers at the manufacturer's price. To protect the interest of small users, the Ministry has arranged for indigenous manufacturers to supply about 1,000 tonnes of Soda Ash per month to the National Consumers' Cooperative Federation for distribution through their member-retail outlets in the country to meet the needs of small users. There is also constant monitoring in Government of the supply being made by the manufacturers. A quantity of nearly 20,000 tonnes has been imported by the State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Limited (CPC) and distributed through State Government Agencies to the small-scale sector. Apart from this, Soda Ash import has been placed under OGL for actual users.