

reduced targets of expenditure in order to generate sufficient savings to absorb the post-budgetary liabilities to the maximum extent possible.

Though the financial results of the first seven months of the current year are not upto the budget projections, it is not possible to predict the precise position of the Railways' finances at the end of the year as the remaining months are generally the busy period from the point of view of freight traffic.

Madras High Court Bench at Madurai

*310. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN:

Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 32 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th July, 1978 and state:

(a) whether the reply awaited from the Tamil Nadu Government regarding setting up of a bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai has since been received and a decision taken in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) (a)
No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Strikes in different Railway Zones

*311. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN:
SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAP-
ARDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of strikes resorted to by the workers in different Railway Zones since April, 1977;

(b) the reasons for each of these strikes and the manner in which settlement was reached during each Strike;

(c) the action taken by Government to implement the assurances given to the striking workers on each occasion; and

(d) the number of mandays lost and the loss of life and property belonging to the railway employees, general public and Government during each strike?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a)
to (c). There was no strike as such since April, 1977. However, there were 84 cases of work stoppages of a minor nature by different categories of Railway workers between April, 1977 and November, 1978. Detailed information in regard to these incidents is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The number of mandays lost during 1977-78 due to strikes is 1,859.

Information regarding loss of life and property, if any, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Tenders for parcel handling contract at Aligarh

*312. SHRI LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tenders were invited for parcel handling contract at Aligarh railway station in August, 1978;

(b) if so, whether the tenders have been finalised and the contract awarded; and a!

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not yet, Sir.

(c) The District Assistant Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Aligarh, has challenged the validity of the lowest tender submitted by Railway Parcel and Goods Porters Cooperative Labour Contract Society Ltd., Aligarh, and the matter is under consideration of the Tender Committee.

Liberal treatment for small scale sector under the New Drug Policy

*313. SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA:
SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI:
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that under the new Drug Policy, small scale sector has been given a specially liberal treatment in the distribution of canalised raw materials, exemption from price control and that these units are not subjected to the ratio of 1:10 for bulk drug production for formulations;

(b) whether Government are aware that certain DGTD units in the Indian Sector have floated small scale units to take advantage of these benefits etc.; and

(c) if so, what are the names of these companies and what steps Government propose to take to stop such practices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) While the new drug policy does not deal separately with the small

scale sector in regard to these matters, drug units in this sector are entitled to preferential treatment under the general policy of Government in the following manner:—Firstly, the guidelines for distribution of canalised drugs provide for more liberal treatment being accorded to units in the small scale sector. Secondly, all drug manufacturing units (whether in the organised or small scale sector) whose turn-over does not exceed Rs. 50 lakhs are exempted from price control on formulations. Lastly, since units in the small scale sector are exempted from obtaining an industrial licence under the ID&R Act, the condition regarding a ratio of 1:10 between bulk drug production and formulations is not applicable to them.

(b) Government are not aware of any DGTD units in the Indian sector having done so after the announcement of the new drug policy. However 10 per cent of the equity of a new small scale unit called Messrs Searle Pharmaceuticals started earlier is held by Messrs Searle (I) Limited. The question whether there has been violation of any statute in this regard is being examined.

(c) Does not arise.

Special pay to senior signallers

*314. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the senior signallers in the time scale of Rs. 330-560 are paid a special pay of Rs. 15 for working on Teleprinters;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the wireless operators on the Southern Railway in the same scale are not allowed any Special Pay for working on Teleprinters; and