

personnel policy and delay in the revision of their pay scales;

(b) whether it is also a fact that two associations of the officials namely, the Association of Scientific and Technical Officers and the Association of Class II Officers have given a call for direct action from the 1st January, 1979; and

(c) if so, what are their main demands and what action Government have taken or propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) According to report received by the Government from Oil and Natural Gas Commission, the contemplated agitation is likely to be put off in the light of discussions being held between the representatives of the officials and the Chairman.

(b) A news item did appear in the Delhi edition of Times of India dated 7-12-1978 wherein it was mentioned that the two Associations of officers viz, the Association of Scientific & Technical Officers (ASTO) and the Association of Class II Officers (ACTO) have given a call for direct action from 1st January, 1979 in case their demands which include announcement of rational personnel policy, revision of pay-scales are not accepted. However, no such notice has been served on the ONGC by the two Associations.

(c) The main demands of the two Associations include adoption of a rational personnel/promotion policy, revision of pay-scales and review of some cases of past supersessions alleged by them to have taken place.

Discussions have been under way between the ONGC and the Associations in regard to their demands.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Manufacture of drugs under authorisations of doubtful validity by certain firms

***386. SHRIMATI JAMUNA DEVI:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain drugs are being manufactured by M/s. Pfizer, M/s. Glaxo, M/s. Warner Hindustan and M/s. May and Baker under the authorisation of doubtful validity; if so, what are these products;

(b) whether Government propose to stop the release of the canalised raw materials for these companies pending final decision; and

(c) what was the basis of taking action to stop supply of canalised raw materials against M/s. Smith Kline and French, M/s. Indian Schering and M/s. Hoechst and why similar action against other defaulting companies is not being taken by Government?

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) No instance of manufacture of any drug item by M/s. Glaxo and M/s. May & Baker under an authorisation of doubtful validity has come to the notice of Government.

However, M/s. Pfizer and M/s. Warner Hindustan have been found producing 'Protinex' and Tedral 'C' respectively under authorisations of doubtful validity. Details of these cases are as below:

M/s. Pfizer, who have been found to be producing 'Protinex' without a specific licence under I (D&R) Act, have contested the show cause notice

issued in this regard, on the ground that the licence held by them for the manufacture of Protein Hydrolysate entitles them to manufacture Protinex also. A final view on this is yet to be taken by the Government.

M/s. Warner Hindustan who were already manufacturing "Tedral" tablets were granted price approval in October, 1976 for marketing "Tedral 'C'" tablets also. This approval was granted on the basis that Tedral 'C' would not constitute a 'new article' as no new Trade Mark was involved and hence, a separate licence under 1 (D&R) Act for this product was not necessary. However, in a subsequent opinion tendered in another case, the Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs gave a different interpretation as to the meaning of 'new article', on the basis of which it appears that Tedral 'C' could also be considered a 'new article'. Since the interpretation given by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs on 17-2-1977 was substantially different from that being followed earlier and as a number of such cases were involved, the matter has been referred to them again for a final opinion.

(b) No Sir. it would not be appropriate to do so till the legal issues are finally resolved.

(c) Supply of canalised bulk drugs to M/s. Smith Kline & French, M/s. Indian Sehering and M/s. Hoechst was stopped for certain products as the legal position in respect of their manufacture was clear, as follows:—

(1) *M/s. Smith Kline and French.*

—They were found to be producing and marketing Eskeycillin capsules without a valid Industrial Licence. After obtaining the Law Ministry's advice, past production was regularised and instructions were issued to the canalising agencies not to release Ampicillin to the firm to prevent continued production of these capsules. The company has since discontinued the manufacture of this item.

(2) *M/s. Indian Schering Ltd.—*

During the course of the examination of the FERA application of this company, it was noticed that they were carrying on their manufacturing activities on the basis of an Industrial Licence of doubtful validity. Hence, after due examination and consultation with other concerned authorities including the Ministry of Law, action was taken to stop release to them of canalised raw materials as well as import of other non-canalised raw materials by them.

(3) *M/s. Hoechst Pharmaceuticals Ltd.—*

M/s. Hoechst Pharmaceuticals Ltd. had applied for grant of COB Licence for manufacture of Hostacycline Dry Syrup, in which the main ingredient is Tetracycline. They had initially undertaken the manufacture of this formulation under the scheme of diversification. Their COB application was, however, rejected on the ground that Tetracycline was a canalised item and its requirements in the country were partly met through imports and partly out of indigenous production. Because of this decision, the party was asked to stop the manufacture of this item and instructions were simultaneously issued to Indian Drugs and Pharamaceuticals Ltd. to stop release of Tetracycline in so far as the requirement for manufacture of this particular item was concerned.

Similar action has also been taken against other defaulting companies like M/s. Ethnor Ltd. and M/s. Abbott Laboratories Ltd.

Expansion of the Madras Central Railway Station

*388. SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN;

SHRI M. KADERSHAH;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position regarding the expansion of the Madras Central Railway Station;