

onwards on account of shortfall in coal production, strike in Singareni Collieries and staff agitation on the Eastern Railway in April/May 1978. Railways have had to cancel some less intensively used branch line pas-

senger trains. Coal supply position further deteriorated on account of unprecedented rains and flooding of coal mines in West Bengal and Bihar. The number of trains cancelled Zone-wise from May, 1978 is given below:—

Railway	Pairs of trains remained cancelled around the end of the month						
	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov. (15/11)
Central	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern	..	..	6	2	2	1	1
Northern	32	10	63	53	52	61	76
N. Eastern	26	..	..	..	4	6	1
N. Frontier	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southern	20	53	63.5	59.5	53	19.5	57.5
S. Central	22	30	29.5	23.5	16	7.5	7
S. Eastern	10	..	..	..	..	5	9
Western	..	19	21	16	19	18	16
TOTAL	110	112	183	154	146	148	167.5

There were also cancellation of trains during the current year due to floods/breaches, agitations etc. and the details of the number of such trains cancelled are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The minimum coal stocks to be held by the Zonal Railways and the stocks held as on 15-11-1978 are indicated below:—

Railway	Coal stocks in number of days consumption	
	Minimum stocks	Stocks as on 15-11-78
Central	6	1.8
Eastern	4	3.4
Northern	9	2.0
N. Eastern	8	1.9
N. Frontier	6	1.8
Southern	9	1.8
S. Central	6	2.3
S. Eastern	5	5.9
Western	9	2.9

Increase in Drug Prices

*16. SHRI M. ANANDAM:

SHRI ARVIND GANESH

KULKARNI:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to increase the prices of drugs manufactured with high technology; and;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to the recent review of drug policy the small scale sector is being discriminated as against the multinational companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no discrimination against the small scale sector in Government's drug policy. On the contrary, this sector has been given a specially liberal treatment in the distribution of canalised raw materials. It has also been given other facilities like certain exemptions in regard to pricing, and reservation of certain bulk drugs for exclusive production.