

- (b) Joint Secretary . . . 5 years
 Director . . . 5 years
 Deputy Secretary . . . 4 years
 Under Secretary . . . 3 years.

(c) No IAS Officer has contained in this Ministry beyond the normal tenure.

- (d) No, Sir.
 (e) Does not arise.

Crisis faced by drug manufacturing companies in West Bengal

•556. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: .
 SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: SHRI
 YOGENDRA SHARMA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of drug manufacturing companies in West Bengal are facing a financial crisis;

(b) if so, what are the names of these companies and what are the details regarding their financial performance during the last three years; and

(c) what are the main reasons for the deterioration in their performance and what remedial measures Central Government propose to take to make them viable units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) Yes, Sir.
 (b) On the basis of the information available only two drugs and pharmaceutical manufacturing Companies viz., M/s. Bengal Chemicals and

Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., and M/s. Indian Health Institute Laboratory Ltd., are facing financial crisis. The details of their financial performance to the extent available are indicated below:—

Year	Sales	Losses
	(Rs. Lakhs)	
<i>Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceutical Works Ltd.</i>		
1974-75	598	0.1
1975-76	586	35
1976-77	502	103
<i>Indian Health Institute & Laboratory Ltd. Calcutta.</i>		
1972	60.56	0.44
1973	44.17	5.22
1974	59.04	11.32

(c) The main reasons for the deterioration of their performance are claimed to be (a) mis-management and (b) lack of finance. While an Investigation under Section 15 of the IDR Act has been ordered into the affairs of the Indian Health Institute and Laboratory Ltd., Calcutta on the 23th November, 1977, the action to be taken in the case of M/s. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., is under consideration of Government.

Self-sufficiency in Chemical fertilizers

1*557. SHRI JANARDHANA RED-DY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state by when the country is likely to achieve self-sufficiency in the matter of Chemical fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): The pro-

†Previously Starred Question 317 transferred from 30th November, 1977.

duction of fertilizers presently falls short of the requirements and imports are arranged to make good the gap.

A large scale programme for setting up additional capacity for the manufacture of fertilizers is under implementation. Even with the completion of this programme, the gap between consumption and production is expected to be about 12 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen and 6 lakh tonnes of P2O5 in 1983-84. Action is on hand to set up additional fertilizer capacity to reduce this gap and move towards self-sufficiency.

Prices of railway wagons

*558. SHRI DEVENDRA NATH
DWIVEDI:

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have been asked to make an upward revision in the prices of Railway wagons for which orders have already been placed on the indigenous wagon industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Alleppey-Ernakulam railway line

*559. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMO-DARA MENON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when the construction work on the Alleppey-Ernakulam railway line is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): The matter is awaiting clearance by the Planning Commission.

Confirmation of Railway officials

*560. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
SHRI LAKSHMANA
MAHAPATRO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of railway officials, with 12 to 22 years of service to their credit, have not yet been confirmed; and

(b) if so, what is the number of such officers and what measures Government propose to take to confirm them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) and (b) Out of 1089 temporary Officers recruited between 1955 and 1968, only 303 are left to be confirmed. The Government have recently increased substantially the annual quota of confirmation in Class I/Junior Scale of Temporary Officers. It has also proposed to absorb permanently some of these Officers in the Indian Railway Personnel Service and the Indian Railway Stores Service.

Assets, profits and remittances of the multinational drug companies

*561. SHRI HIMMAT SINH:
DR. V. P. DUTT:
SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN
CHOUDHURY:
SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVI-
YA:

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

(a) the details of assets, profits and foreign remittances of the multinational drug companies operating in India during 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77, year-wise; and

(b) whether any efforts have been made recently to cut down their pre-