

transfers deed under the Companies (Preservation of Disposal of Records) Rules, 1966;

(2) Payment of interest on deferred dividend; and

(3) Amendment of form of advertisement by companies inviting deposits so as to make it obligatory to disclose unabsorbed amount of depreciation.

On item (1), the Committee after a prolonged discussion made a recommendation that the share transfer deeds be retained for a period of two to three years but the Committee desired that the Government may examine whether the desired objective can be achieved by taking action under the Rule making power of the Government or amendment of the Act would be necessary.

On item (2), after some discussion, it was found that the matter was one of academic interest since the scheme would cease to be operative from July, 1977. Therefore it was found not necessary to give any advice.

On item (3), the Committee authorised two of its Members to suggest what liability should be included in the advertisement and for that purpose what amendments were necessary in the form of advertisement prescribed at present.

The Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules 1975 has been recently amended and are effective from 1st April, 1978. This amendment, inter alia, requires more and better disclosure.

1410. [Transferred to the 16th August, 1978]

Lending libraries in trains

1411. SHRI T. R. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains which are having lending libraries at present; and

(b) whether these libraries are run by Government or by private agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Eight.

(b) Two lending libraries are run departmentally by the railways and six by contractors.

implementation of the Hathi Committee recommendations

1412. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to appoint another committee to go into the questions that were referred to the Hathi Committee;

(b) if not, whether any improvement is being made on the recommendations contained in the Hathi Committee Report; and

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

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

(b) and (c) A Statement indicating the major improvements in the New Drug Policy over the recommendations of the (Hathi) Committee on Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Industry is attached. [See Appendix I CVT, Annexure No. 78].

Increase in prices of drugs manufactured by foreign companies

1413. SHRIMATI JAMUNA DEVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any evaluation of the increase •

in prices of drugs during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the variation in prices is greater in respect of life saving drugs/important common medicines; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to bring down prices in order to help the consumers, especially for drugs manufactured by foreign companies under brand names?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b) The whole sale price index of drugs and medicines as maintained by the Office of Economic Adviser (with 1970-71 : 100 as the base) went up from 118.7 in 1975-76 to 133.9 in 1976-77, and to 136.3 in 1977-78. There was, therefore, an increase in the wholesale price index by 13 per cent in 1976-77 over 1975-76 and 1.8 per cent in 1977-78 over 1976-77. This would show that while there was some what steeper rise of prices in 1976-77, the prices during the year 1977-78 remained more or less stable. No separate evaluation of increase in prices of life-saving drugs | important common medicines has been made.

(c) Measures taken by the Government recently to make available drugs including those sold under brand names by foreign companies and Indian companies at reasonable prices are as follows: —

(i) From 10th of May, 1977 patent or proprietary medicines of the following additional 9 bulk drugs are eligible for concessional rate of excise duty of 2.625 per cent as against the normal rate of excise duty of 13.125 per cent: —

1. Chloroquin Phosphate
2. Amodiaquin
3. Clofazimine
4. Tolbutamide
5. Metronidazole

6. Diethylcarbamazine citrate

7. Piperazine and its salts 8.-

Pifampicin

9. Tetracycline Hydrochloride

Consequential reduction in prices of formulations due to reduction of excise duty have already been given effect to and consumers are already enjoying the benefit.

(ii) 75 life-saving drug formulations have been totally exempted from customs duty when imported by actual users. This is meant to ensure their availability at low prices to the consumers.

(iii) Excise duty of 2 per cent in respect of all drugs, medicines, pharmaceutical preparations and drug intermediates sold under generic names which was earlier levied was withdrawn with effect from 1st of March, 1978 and the benefit or price reduction on this account is also being enjoyed by the consumers at present.

(iv) Based on cost studies conducted by the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices in the past Government have also reduced the prices of certain bulk drugs and formulations based thereon. Such formulations include those based on Oxytetracycline. Trimethoprim and Sulphamethozazole.

(v) The new pricing policy contained in the Statement laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1978 provides for rationalisation of mark ups. While Category I and II formulations would carry a mark up of 40 to 55 per cent respectively, Category III formulations will carry a mark up upto 100 per cent and there will be no price control on Category IV formulations. The proposed rationalisation may result in changes in the prices of individual formulation. The scheme is expected to ensure that essential formulations are available to the consumers at reasonable prices and,

at the same time, the manufacture of formulations does not become an uneconomic operation for the formulators on an overall basis.

(vi) Action has been initiated to implement the decision of the Government on the recommendations of the Hathi Committee on the use of brand names. These decisions are contained in Paragraph 71.1 to 7U6, 99, 100 and 102 of the Statement laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 24th of April, 78.

रेलवे स्टेशनों पर कैंटीनों तथा खोमचे लगाना के ठेके

1414. श्री हरि शंकर भाभड़ा :

श्री कलराज मिश्र :

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर :

क्या रेल मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रेलवे स्टेशनों पर कैंटीनों एवं अन्य वस्तुओं के विक्रय के लिए सामान्यतया कितनी अवधि के लिए ठेके दिये जाते हैं;

(ख) क्या ऐसे ठेके देने के मामले में सहकारी समितियों, बेरोजगार स्नातकों एवं आर्थिक दृष्टि से कमजोर वर्गों को प्राथमिकता देने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है ?

[Contracts for canteens and vendors at railway station]

1414. SHRI HARISHANKAR BHABHDA: SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the period for which contracts for canteens and vending at the railway stations are normally given;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to give priority to cooperative societies unemployed graduates and economically weaker sections of the society in the matter of giving these contracts; and

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

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शिव नारायण) : (क) वेडिंग के ठेके 3 वर्ष की अवधि के लिए, तथा उपाहारगृहों और रेस्टोरेंटों के ठेके 5 वर्ष की अवधि के लिए प्रदान किये जाते हैं। यदि उनका काम सन्तोषजनक हो तो अगली एक अवधि के लिए ठेके का नवीकरण कर दिया जाता है।

(ख) और (ग) पहले से ही ऐसे निर्देश मौजूद हैं कि खान पान/विक्रय के ठेके आवंटित करते समय अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जन जातियों से सम्बन्धित व्यक्तियों, बेरोजगार स्नातकों, सहकारी समितियों, महिला समितियों, स्वतन्त्रता सेनानियों और अन्य स्वयंसेवी संगठनों को तरजीह दी जाये।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Vending contracts are allotted for a period of three years and Refreshment Rooms and Restaurants for five years. If the performance is found to be satisfactory the contract is renewed for further term.

(b) and (c) Instructions already exist that persons belonging to Scheduled Castes | Scheduled Tribes, cooperative Societies, Mahila Samities, Freedom fighters and other Voluntary Organisations should be given preference in the allotment of catering|vending contracts.].