

Statement

Only such of the bulk drugs, drug intermediates whether of a proprietary or non-proprietary nature, which are not canalised for imports through the S.T.C., are allowed for imports to the Actual Users against the import licences issued to them. The import of such items are permitted from Rupee Areas, General Currency Area and the available Credits, on the recommendation of the sponsoring authority and no obligation is imposed that the imports will be from any specific country and Actual Users are free to import from any available source of supply. 36 items of bulk drugs, drug intermediates which constitute about 60 per cent of the total imports of drugs, have been canalised for imports through the S.T.C. The Question of further enlarging the list of canalisation is under consideration of Government.

M/s MERCK SHARP DOHME of India Ltd., have refused to lift bulk Methyl Dopa and Indomethacin (canalised items) imported by the S.T.C. from Rupee Currency Areas on the ground that they would prefer to utilise the bulk material manufactured by their principals in U.S.A. To alleviate shortages of Aldomet and Indocid Capsules which are manufactured by M/s M. S. D., Government allowed the import of some quantities of these drugs as a stop gap arrangement only. I.D.P.L. have been asked to take up the manufacture of formulations of these drugs quickly. Their formulations are expected to be available by June, 1975. Some other Indian Companies will also be manufacturing these drugs in the country. After I.D.P.L. produce these drugs, no more import of the Methyl Dopa and Indomethacin will be permitted from U.S.A.

Remittances of profits, dividends are regulated under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and subject to the directives issued by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time in this regard.

The Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry set up by the Government in February, 1974 made *inter alia* the following recommendations :—

There is scope for tightening repatriation of money by foreign companies under various heads. The norms for payment of "Research contribution", "Technical know-how fees", "Trade Mark fees", etc. in the opinion of this Committee, need to be reviewed. We would suggest that the NDA should be entrusted with this task.

Remittances of money outside this country by foreign companies are permitted subject to certain conditions being fulfilled by them. Certain companies may be required to start manufacture from the basic stage in a phased manner. Export commitments are imposed in licences. Again, the principals abroad of foreign subsidiaries operating in this country may be required by a condition in the licence, to invest money in this country. The Committee recommends that a suitable machinery should be evolved to check that the conditions imposed in industrial and other licences are fulfilled before remittances abroad are permitted.

The Committee recommends the creation of a statutory body which may be called the National Drug Authority of India which among other functions should centrally import, where necessary, bulk drugs, drug intermediates, raw materials, equipment and accessories and distribute these to the concerned units of the industry.

A copy of the Report of the Committee was laid on the Table of the Sabha on 8-5-1975. The recommendations made by the Committee are receiving the attention of the Government.

Gauhati and Bongaigaon Refineries

*286. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY :
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN :

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

(a) whether Government have received any representation for extension of refining capacity of Gauhati and Bongaigaon Refineries and also for take-over and extension of Digboi Refinery; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). Government have received representations for expansion of refining capacity of Gauhati and Bongaigaon Refineries and also for take over and expansion of the Digboi Refinery.

On the basis of the presently established reserves, crude oil production of Oil India and Oil & Natural Gas Commission taken together is expected to increase from 3.75 million tonnes in 1974-75 to 5.3 million tonnes in 1977-78. This production would be adequate to sustain the capacity of the existing and the projected refineries based on Assam crude. If some more crude oil production can be developed, it may be possible to increase the capacity of Gauhati Refinery from 0.75 million tonnes to 1.10 million tonnes. Similarly, Bongaigaon Refinery, which is planned for one million tonnes, may be capable of doing 1.15 million tonnes with some debottlenecking. As soon as adequate additional reserves are discovered, Government would consider the feasibility of expanding the Bongaigaon Refinery.

In line with the declared policy of acquiring effective control over the Petroleum refineries and marketing companies, the Assam Oil Company will also be brought into the public-sector at the appropriate time.

दिल्ली से गढ़वाल तक रेलवे लाइन के निर्माण की मांग

*287. श्री सुब्रमण्यम् स्वामी : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तराखण्ड महिला मण्डल के एक प्रतिनिधि मण्डल ने श्रीमती सुमन लता भदोला के नेतृत्व में उन्हें दिनांक 5-4-75

को एक ज्ञापन दिया था, जिसमें पिकेश और कर्णप्रयाग के बीच रेलवे लाइन का निर्माण करने तथा दिल्ली से गढ़वाल के लिए सीधी रेल सेवा "बद्रीनाथ एक्सप्रेस" की मांग की गई थी;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो सरकार ने उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की है, और

(ग) क्या सरकार का विचार उत्तराखण्ड महिला मण्डल की उक्त मांगों को स्वीकार करने का है ?

† [Demand for the construction of Railway Line from Delhi to Garhwal

*287. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a delegation of the Uttarakhand Mahila Mandal headed by Shrimati Suman Lata Bhadola presented a memorandum to him on the 5th April 1975 demanding the construction of railway line between Rishikesh and Karnaprayag and the starting of a direct train 'Badrinath Express' from Delhi to Garhwal;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) whether Government propose to accept the said demands of the Uttarkhand Mahila Mandal ?]

रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (सरदार बूटा सिंह) :

(क) मे (ग) एक विवरण सभा-घटल पर रख दिया गया है ।

विवरण

(क) जी हाँ ।

(ख) और (ग) विगत में एक सर्वेक्षण से मालूम हुआ था कि 160 किलोमीटर लम्बी इस लाइन पर छोटी लाइन डालने में भी बहुत खर्च आयेगा और, इसीलिए इस परियोजना को छोड़ दिया गया था। इस बीच कोई ऐसी बात नहीं हुई जिससे इस प्रस्ताव पर फिर से विचार करने का औचित्य ही। ऊपर के तथ्यों को देखते हुए और वर्तमान वित्तीय कठिनाइयों के कारण भी इस लाइन के निर्माण पर विचार करना सम्भव नहीं होगा ।

† [English translation.