

the present strength in the above categories of posts has been fixed as recommended by that Unit.

(d) The posts of Upper Division Clerks in the Commission are filled 100 per cent by promotion of Lower Division Clerks of the Commission with 5 years service in the grade, failing which by transfer/deputation of persons serving under the Central Government. All the existing posts of Upper Division Clerk in the Commission have been filled by the promotion of Lower Division Clerks in the Commission.

(e) The posts of Upper Division Clerk in the Commission are filled by promotions from the grade of Lower Division Clerks in the Commission on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness, after taking into account the relevant instructions of Government relating to reservation for Scheduled Castes/Tribes.]

Hike in drug prices

*409. DR. Z. A. AHMAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has received requests from drug manufacturers for an immediate hike in drug prices ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the requests made and what is Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH) :

(a) and (b) The Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1970 provides a mechanism for revision of prices. Consequent upon the petroleum crisis during the second half of 1973-74, prices of a large number of chemicals including bulk drugs increased, with the result that the number of applications received from the drug manufacturers for revision of prices of their products also increased very considerably. These applications are examined in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970 by a Committee constituted under the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. A large number of these applica-

tions have been scrutinised and Government have issued appropriate orders thereupon.

*410. [Transferred to the 11th December, 1974.]

C.O.B. Licences to foreign drug companies

744. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1330 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th August, 1974 and state:

(a) the considerations which weighed with the Government while issuing C.O.B. licences to the various foreign drug manufacturing companies referred to therein;

(b) the names of the drug companies whose applications for the issue of C.O.B. licences are still pending consideration and the items of manufacture covered by each; and

(c) by when the Government is to disclose them of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached. [See Appendix XC Annexure No. 46.]

Permission to Drug manufacturers

745. SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the permission/no objection letters which were issued to drugs and pharmaceutical firms during the second Five Year Plan period were issued with the approval of the Licensing Committee;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether industries (Dev. & Reg.) Act, 1951 provides that each case covered by that Act would be decided by a Committee set up under that Act; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for departure in some cases?