

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (c) In the dialogue held with the representatives of the Indian Medical Association a feeling was expressed that essential medicines may be made available to the public at cheap prices and the manufacturers may be compensated by grant of additional licences etc. for other formulations.

Manufacturers' requests for necessary assistance for the procurement of raw materials required for the production of essential medicines at cheap prices would be considered by the Government sympathetically.

The Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Industry set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi has submitted a report "on measures for providing essential drugs and common household remedies to the general public, especially in rural areas". A copy of this report was laid on the Table of the House on 4th March, 1975. This report is being examined by the Government.

Export of technical know-how by Indian Railways

1239. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries which have sought the technical skill and know-how from the Indian Railways during the last year; and

(b) what is the value of railway goods and equipment purchased by these countries for expansion and modernisation of their railways during the same period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Four countries—Iraq, Nigeria, Zambia and Phillipines.

(b) About Rs. 9.31 crores to various countries.

Stoppage of payment to suppliers

1240. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Board has issued an order that no payment should be made for the goods and supplies made to the Railways by suppliers in Eastern India till March 31, 1975; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Survey for Wardha Katol Railway Line

1241. SHRI DEORAO PATIL:
SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE:
SHRI GADDAM NARAYANA
REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS- be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sanctioned a preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey for the proposed railway line from Wardha to Katol in Maharashtra state;

(b) if so, by when the survey is expected to be completed; and

(c) whether the work on the construction of this railway line is likely to start during the Fifth Five Year Plan period ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The survey is expected to be completed by 30-9-75.

(c) The proposal for construction of this line will be considered after the survey is completed and reports examined.

Railway projects in Maharashtra during Fifth Five Year Plan

1242. SHRI DEORAO PATIL: PROF. N. M. KAMBLE: SHRI R.D. J. AVERGOANKAR

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra had recommended to the Central Government that the "Darwha-Pusad" and "Nag-pur-Kolhapur" Railway lines be taken up in the Fifth Five Year plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The details of these proposals are given below:

(i) Restoration of Danvha-Pusad Line, Length—72 kms. Approx. Cost Rs. 3.50 crores.—The Darwha-Pusad line was dismantled in 1940. A rough assessment of the traffic prospects of the line in case it was restored was carried out in 1957. It revealed that this line would attract very little traffic and would be heavily unremunerative and hence the proposal was dropped.

(ii) Kolhupir-Nagpur.—No surveys have been carried out for this rail link. Due to severe constraint of funds and lack of adequate traffic justification it is proposed not to take up these proposals in the near future.

Applications under FERA

1243. SHRI BANARSI DAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received under F.E.R.A. during the last one year;

(b) the number of applications still pending ;

(c) the broad features of foreign exchange agreements including brand name and localisation, firm-wise; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to liquidate disproportionate expansion of foreign firm in relation to their local investment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESHI) : (a) and (b) The number of applications received from drug manufacturing firms under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act during the last one year is 26. These applications are at various stages of processing. As regards other industries with which the Ministry is concerned, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) In so far as the drug industry is concerned the requisite information will be given in reply to Rajya Sabha Question No. 281 answered on 19.12.74. As regards other industries with which the Ministry is concerned, information will be collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction of Railway Line in Iraq

1244. SHRI SAWAISINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India offered to construct some Railway in Iraq in the near future; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of Iraq in this respect?