

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this regard ; and

(c) If not, by when a decision in the matter is proposed to be taken ?

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

(a) to (c) The National Convention on Economic Independence and Perspective of Drug Industry held on 21st and 22nd December, 1974 made the following recommendations with regard to abolition of brand names :

"1. Brand names of drugs should be abolished considering the abuse to which they have been put and the manner in which they have been cashed in on. However, overnight abolition may interfere with medical relief programmes. Hence, the following phased action is recommended :

(a) International brand names should be abolished forthwith.

(b) Brand names of commonly used drugs such as Aspirin, Tolbutamide, Chlorpropamide, Penicillins, Tetracyclines, Streptomycin, Prednisolone, Insuline, Reserpine, PAS, INH, Morphine, Pethidine, Sera and Vaccine etc. (36 items) should be abolished forthwith .

2. Side by side, the National Formulary should be brought upto date and a 'Prescribers' 'Journal' indicating the rational use of drugs should be published by the Central Government. Medical Colleges should be appraised of this policy and requested to orient their teaching methods accordingly. Quality control measures should be made more effective so that the medical profession can confidently prescribe the drugs made in this country."

The Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals set up by the Government under the chairmanship of Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi is going into this question and other aspects relating to the drug industry as a whole and appropriate action will be taken by the Government on the recommendations made

by the Committee. The Committee is expected to submit its report in April, 1975,

Withholding of licences to foreign Drug Companies.

401. SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have any proposal under consideration to withhold licences of foreign drug companies in the country until the review of matters relating to these companies is completed; and

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

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

(a) and (b) With a view to ensuring the regulated and rapid growth of drug manufacture and further with a view to ensuring that all essential drugs are made available to the consumers at reasonable prices, Govt. have appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi *inter alia* with the following terms of reference :

(i) "To enquire into the progress made by the industry and the status achieved by it.

(ii) To recommend measures necessary for ensuring that the public Sector attains leadership role in the manufacture of basic drugs and formulations and in research and development,

(iii) To make recommendations for promoting the rapid growth of the drugs industry and, particularly, on the Indian and Small Scale industries sectors. In making its recommendations the Committee will keep in view the need for a balanced regional disposal of the industry."

In the meantime all applications for licences from the foreign sector are scrutinised in the context of the essentiality of drugs, its technological aspect, the capacity of the Indian and Sector to produce these drugs and the availability of indigenous technology.