

Reduction in Drug Prices

*146. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of drugs can be reduced by 25 per cent by saving on advertising and packing;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken in this direction; and

(c) whether the National Convention of Economic Independence and Perspective of Drug Industry has recommended the nationalisation of drug industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b) Government of India have set up a Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry under the Chairmanship of Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi, whose terms of reference, *inter alia*, include :

"To examine the measures taken so far to reduce the prices of drugs for the consumer and to recommend such further measures as may be necessary to rationalise the prices of basic drugs and formulations."

The Committee is expected to submit its report by April, 1975. It is expected that a more precise idea regarding the share of advertisement and packaging in the cost of drugs of different types would be available after this report is received. There is strong opinion in the country that there is scope to reduce the present prices by saving on advertisement and packing. The extent of reduction possible would be known on receipt of the report of the Committee. Such action as is necessary will be taken by Government in the light of the recommendations of the Committee.

(c) The Convention has recommended that all units of the pharmaceutical and drug industry with foreign equity capital participation should be nationalised.

बिहपुर और मानसी में नये श्रमिकों की नियुक्ति

* 147. डा० रामकृपाल सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के समस्तीपुर मंडल में बिहपुर और मानसी में लगातार

पिछले चार-पाच वर्षों से काम कर रहे श्रमिकों की सूची तैयार की गई है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि बिहपुर और मानसी क्षेत्रों के सहायक अभियन्ता और अन्य सम्बन्धित अधिकारी वहां पिछले कई वर्षों से काम कर रहे इन श्रमिकों के स्थान पर नये श्रमिकों को नियुक्त कर रहे हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और क्या सरकार का विचार सम्बन्धित प्राधिकारियों को इस प्रकार के मनमाने तरीके अपनाने के लिए दण्ड देने का है ?

†[Appointment of new workers in Bihupur and Manasi

*147. DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a list of the workers who have been continuously working in Bihupur and Manasi under Samastipur Division of North Eastern Railway for the last four/five years, has been prepared;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Assistant Engineers and other concerned authorities in Bihupur and Manasi areas are appointing new workers instead of appointing those workers who have been working there for the last so many years; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to penalize the concerned authorities for adopting such arbitrary practices?]

रेल मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) :

(क) जी हां । इसके अलावा, नियमित रिक्तियों में समाहित करने के लिए परखे/बुने गए नैमित्तिक श्रमिकों का एक पैलन भी बनाये रखा जा रहा है ।

(ख) जी नहीं ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

† [] English Translation.