

(c) what would be the prices to be charged and what kind of medicines will be available in those shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, a proposal for opening of drug shops in the premises of the following hospitals in Delhi is under consideration :—

1. Willingdon Hospital, New Delhi.
2. Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.
3. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
4. Lady Harding Medical College and Hospital, New Delhi.
5. Hindu Rao Hospital, Delhi.

(c) Most of the medicines will be sold at these shops and prices will be charged as fixed under the Drugs Prices Control Order.

DEMAND FOR INCREASE IN COAL PRICE

1549. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to allow coal price rise as demanded by the coal mine owners; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITIRAI SINGH CHAUDHARY) : (a) and (b) Consequent on decontrol, the prices of coal are to be settled mutually by the buyers and sellers themselves. The Ministry of Railways have invited tenders for supply of coal to the Railways from 1-1-1971 to 31-12-1971. They, as a buyer, would negotiate and settle the price directly with the tenderers.

DRILLING OPERATION IN GULF OF CAMBAY

1550. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1338

given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th August, 1970 and state :

(a) the names of the foreign companies with whom negotiations are being conducted for the drilling operations in the Gulf of Cambay; and

(b) the present stage of the negotiation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Negotiations have been conducted with Mitsubishi and Sumitomo of Japan regarding their proposal to assist Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the offshore drilling in deep waters on owner operation basis.

Detailed negotiations have just been concluded with both these firms. Government's decision on these proposals is expected shortly.

RECOVERY OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE FROM ESSO

1551. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to refer to the reply to the Starred Question No. 66 given in Rajya Sabha on 29th July, 1970 and state :

(a) whether the ESSO has since agreed to the recovery proposal of the excess allocations of foreign exchange; and

(b) if not, the steps taken by Government in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The matter is still under discussion with ESSO.

ROYALTY ON COAL IN BIHAR

1552. SHRI KALYAN ROY :
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

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

(a) whether the Central Government have agreed to the proposal of the Government of Bihar to charge royalty on coal at the rate of 50 paise per ton;