

per cent. per annum, whereas imports will grow only at 5 per cent. The plan places considerable emphasis on export promotion, imports substitution and domestic production of foodgrains, keeping to the minimum the need for aid.

NATIONALISED BANKS' SHARES

*56. SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Companies in which and the number and the amount of shares held in them by the nationalised banks at present ; and

(b) the amount of loans given to these companies by these banks since nationalisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P.C. SETHI) : (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The total amount of the loans given to these companies by the nationalised banks is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

REDUCTION IN DRUG PRICES

*57. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON :

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI :

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS :

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI :

SHRI CHITTA BASU :

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

(a) whether the pharmaceutical industry has submitted to Government two sets of proposals whereby drug prices can be reduced ;

(b) if, so what are these proposals; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Briefly the proposals are (i) acceptance of the recommendations of the Tariff Commission in fixing the selling prices of the 18 basic drugs subject to certain revisions in the costs to reflect the increases since the Commission made the study three years ago, and (ii) in regard to formulations, ex-factory costs be worked out using the basis followed by the Tariff Commission and arrive at the manufacturers' price, which excludes excise duty and retailer's margin, by giving a mark up of 80 percent—this formula to apply only to the 18 essential drugs and their formulations which formed the subject of the study made by the Tariff Commission.

(c) The entire question of drug prices is being considered in all its aspects having regard to the various view points urged by the manufacturers, dealers and consumers. The decisions of Government will be announced shortly.

KHETRI COPPER PROJECT

*58. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Management of the Khetri Copper Project recently called an expert who is a Consultant with the Collaborating US concern, when one of the mine shafts entered a geological fault despite the Indian Engineers assurance that they were fully equipped to deal with the situation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that before the arrival of the US expert the Indian Engineers had done the job and there was nothing for the US expert to attend to;

(c) if the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative the expenditure incurred by Government on the US expert; and

(d) whether Government have gone into the reasons for the wasteful expenditure and if so, the result thereof and the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

In September, 1969, the Production Shaft at Khetri Copper Project encountered a major fault zone. It was anticipated that the fault would continue downward to the area where the bottom crusher station was to be located. In November, 1969, a team of Indian experts was appointed to investigate the matter and suggest alternative site for the location of the crusher station. An expert from M/s. Western Knapp Engineering Company, who are the consultants to the Project, was called to assist the technical team in selecting an alternative site for the crusher station and advise on the design changes that may become necessary following the change in the location of the crusher station. The American expert was fully associated with the Indian team of experts. They, after a joint inspection of the fault area on 22nd November, 1969, recommended investigations of the proposed area through an exploratory drift so as to ensure that the crusher station is located in fault free zone. The possibility of installing a conveyor was also taken into account and the American expert made recommendations regarding location and design etc. for the same.

An expenditure of about Rs. 34,000 including air travel was incurred on the visit of the American expert.

M/s. Western Knapp Engineering Company are one of the Consultants for the Khetri Copper Project. The experts of the French Group, who are the main consultants to the Project, visit Khetri for discussions & settlement of various matters, half yearly. The American expert is also normally associated with these discussions. As the presence of the American expert in November '69 was utilised for discussing & finalising the purchase proposals received from French Group & also in resolving several outstanding technical matters, his visit again at the time of the visit of the French experts in January, 1970 became unnecessary & he was not called for.

राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों से किसानों को ऋण

* 59. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों से ऋण प्राप्त करने की क्या प्रक्रिया है ; और

(ख) क्या इन बैंकों से ऋण प्राप्त करने में किसानों को सैकड़ों और हजारों रुपये खर्च करने पड़ते हैं ; यदि हां तो उक्त प्रक्रिया में सुधार करने के लिये क्या कदम उठाने का विचार है ?

†[LOANS TO FARMERS FROM NATIONALISED BANKS

*59. SHRI J. P. YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the procedure for getting loans from the nationalised banks; and

(b) whether the farmers have to spend hundreds and thousands of rupees for getting loans from these banks; if so, what steps are contemplated to make improvements in the said procedure?]

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री(श्री पी० सी० सेठी) : (क) उधारकर्ता को ऋण के लिए बैंक के पास प्रार्थनापत्र देना पड़ता है और उस प्रार्थनापत्र में, अपनी ऋण-संबंधी आवश्यकताओं, ऋण के प्रयोजन, ऋण की अवधि, ऋण चुकाने के स्रोत, ऋण के संबंध में दी जाने वाली किसी जमानत आदि के बारे में जानकारी देनी पड़ती है। यदि बैंक को, ऋण के प्रस्ताव की उत्कृष्टता के बारे में, जिसमें ऋण के लिये निर्धारित शर्तों के अनुसार ऋण-कर्ता की ऋण चुकाने की क्षमता भी शामिल है, तसल्ली हो जाय तो वह ऋण-कर्ता के प्रार्थनापत्र पर अनुकूल ढंग से विचार करता है।

(ख) सरकार का ऐसा विचार नहीं है कि किसानों को इन ऋणों को प्राप्त करने में अधिक रकम खर्च करनी पड़ती है। पर आवश्यक औपचारिकताओं को पूरा करने के

†[] English translation.