

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.
BHAIRAV 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 the 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 ?