

(iii) Thiosemicarbazone group of tuberculosis drugs.

(iv) Hydrazide of Isonicotinic Acid. The first three drugs are available at reasonable prices mainly as a result of the liberal import policy followed in respect of them. The prices of Streptomycin are also controlled under the Drugs (Control) Act, 1950. As regards the last drug, licences for its import are being granted to those parties who quote reasonable prices, while assistance is also being given to Indian firms who wish to start its manufacture in this country. As far as possible poor T.B. patients are helped with special drugs.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** In view of the fact that 2½ millions of Indians suffer from tuberculosis, do Government have any proposals for manufacturing streptomycin, para-amino-salicylic acid and isonicotinic Acid-hydrazide in the country?

**Shrimati Chandrasekhar:** In answer to part (b) of the question, as regards the last item namely hydrazide of isonicotinic acid I have stated that assistance is being given to Indian firms who wish to start its manufacture in this country.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** What percentage of T.B. patients can afford to have this treatment which costs round about Rs. 125 per mensem?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a matter of opinion. Next question.

#### STAGE AND MUSIC ARTISTES (RAILWAY CONCESSIONS)

\*70. **Shri K. S. Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are considering a proposal for granting Railway concessions to Stage and Music Artistes?

(b) Have representations been made to Government regarding this?

(c) What action has been taken by Government with regard to these representations?

(d) How long will it take for Government to come to a decision in this matter?

(e) Has the question of granting Railway concessions to other needy groups also been considered?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Government have recently examined this matter and propose to review it again some time later.

(b) Yes.

(c) While it has not been found possible to revive the pre-war rail

concessions for stage and music artistes, these have been allowed in specific cases on merits on an *ad hoc* basis.

(d) A reference is invited to my reply under (a) above.

(e) Yes.

**Shri K. S. Rao:** May I know whether there is any representation from the scheduled caste people?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** During the Rayalaseema famine days many of these artistes were unable to go from place to place giving performances in order to collect funds; as such may I know what the Government are doing to give railway concessions for free performances?

**Shri Alagesan:** As I have already stated, individual requests are considered on merits and these concessions are granted on an *ad hoc* basis.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** Arising out of the answer to part (e) may I know what are the 'needy groups'?

**Shri Alagesan:** I shall put teachers first.

**Shri Chattopadhyaya:** May I know whether the concession would also be extended to such of the M.Ps. who are artistes?

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

#### INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SUGAR TECHNOLOGY, KANPUR

\*73. **Prof. Agarwal:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how long has the post of Professor of Sugar Engineering not been filled up in the Indian Institute of Sugar Technology, Kanpur?

(b) When is the Sugar Institute likely to be shifted to the new building in Lucknow?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Since August, 1950.

(b) It is not possible to state the exact date. The foundation stone of the new building was laid in February, 1952 and construction work has been entrusted to the Uttar Pradesh P.W.D.

#### AGMARK PRODUCTS

\*74. **Prof. Agarwal:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how Government exercise control over Agmark products, specially ghee?