

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) to (c). A statement containing the required information is given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library See No. LT 334/77).

(d) Further action, if any required, will be taken after a report in the matter is received from the Chief Electoral Officers concerned.

Equities held by erstwhile Prime Minister and Members of her family in Companies

283. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) names of companies in which erstwhile Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, her sons Sarvshri Sanjay and Rajiv, daughters-in-law Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Menaka Gandhi have equity participation and/or control;

(b) details of equities held by the said shareholders; and

(c) total amount of over-drafts taken by these companies from nationalised banks, financial institutions and other sources (indicating sources)?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). As on 31st March, 1976 there were 43853 companies in the private sector. There is no record maintained in any of the offices of the Department of Company Affairs which would show at one place the shareholding of the particular individual in various companies. It would, therefore, be necessary to go through the names of the shareholders of every one of the 43853 companies to gather the information asked for. Considering the labour involved this step is not being contemplated. It

is possible that the individuals referred to in the question are being assessed to Income Tax/Wealth Tax and the tax records might contain the information asked for. The Central Board of Direct Taxes is being approached in this regard. The information, when received, will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) After the details referred to in answer to parts (a) and (b) are obtained from the Central Board of Direct Taxes, the Department of Banking will be approached for the information asked for.

Prices of Essential Drugs

284. SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position regarding prices of essential drugs so as to be within reach of the masses at reasonable rates;

(b) whether the prices of imported drugs and raw materials for drugs are out of all proportion to the cost of production in foreign countries allowing a reasonable margin of profit; and

(c) if so, the broad features for some representative drugs; and

(d) the steps taken to secure reduction in price?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) The prices of drugs are statutorily controlled under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1970. Prices once notified by Government under this Order cannot be revised by the manufacturer without the prior approval of Government. Small scale units having an annual sales turnover of less than Rs. 50 lakhs in formulations are exempt from the purview of this Order. Through the operation of this Order, it has been possible to maintain the prices of drugs at reasonable level.

(b) and (c). It is not possible to co-relate the cost of production of bulk drugs and raw materials in foreign countries with the prices at which they are imported into India, as their production cost data is neither available nor possible to obtain.

(d) The Hathi Committee have made certain recommendations on the rationalisation of prices of drugs and medicines and the Government's decision thereon is expected to be taken shortly. However, based on cost-examination conducted by the BICP and decrease in imported prices of certain bulk drugs, prices of bulk drugs were reduced in 1976-77. A statement showing the name of the bulk drug and reduction effected in prices is laid on the Table of the the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-335/77].

Wall around Chittaranjan Township

285. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chittaranjan township has been surrounded by constructing a wall; and

(b) what was the net benefit after the construction of this wall?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes. Chittaranjan Township has been provided with a boundary wall over a portion of its boundary.

(b) Boundary wall has helped to prevent entry of unauthorised persons into the township thereby safeguarding railway property from theft and pilferage. The incidence of crime and theft in the Railway quarters within the township has substantially come down since the construction of the above mentioned boundary wall.

Suspension of Trade Union Officials in C.L.W.

286. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees suspended during last two years in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works;

(b) the reasons of their suspension; and

(c) the names of top-most trade union officials suspended?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) 98 out of which 67 have been taken back to duty.

(b) Criminal cases, unauthorised absence, negligence of duty, theft of railway materials etc.

(c) 1. Shri N. K. Mukherjee, President, C.L.W. Labour Union (unrecognised) for unauthorised absence.

2. Shri R. N. Singh, General Secretary, C.L.W. Labour Union for arrest and detention under DIR and for serious misconduct in tampering with official records, unauthorised absence, etc.

3. Shri N. N. Singh, ex-President, C.L.W. Labour Union for arrest and detention under MISA—Suspension revoked on 24th Decemebr, 1975 after release.

4. Shri S. R. Dass, ex-General Secretary, C.L.W. Labour Union, for arrest and detention under MISA. Released on 21st May, 1977 but continues to be under detention having been charge-sheeted by the police for serious criminal charges including murder.

Transfer of officials of C.L.W. Labour Union

287. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether transfer orders issued on seven top officials of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works Labour Union on