

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) and (b). It is the intention of Government to ensure that drugs are available in abundance in the country to meet the health needs of the people both in urban and rural areas and at reasonable prices. The Hathi Committee has also identified 117 essential medicines which should be made available at reasonably low prices throughout the country. Government have during the years 1975-76, and 1976-77 issued 169 licences/letter of Intents for the manufacture of bulk drugs and formulations etc. It is expected that when the licences are implemented the availability of drugs will increase. Hathi Committee has also made various recommendations in regard to rationalisation of Price Control and these recommendations are being considered by Government and a decision is expected to be taken soon.

Cases pending in High Courts and Supreme Court

1277. SHRI RAMANAND TIWARY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of civil and criminal cases pending for (i) less than one year (ii) more than one year but less than two years; and (iii) more than three years in the various High Courts and the Supreme Court as on 1st April, 1977; and

(b) Steps taken by Government to clear the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) The information in respect of High Courts as on 1-4-1977 is not available. A statement giving the number of civil and criminal cases pending in the Supreme Court on 1-4-1977 and in the various High Courts on 31-12-1976 is placed on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-468/77.]

(b) Government are considering the steps which should be taken for speedy disposal of cases.

Proposal to set up a paraffin wax plant

1278. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a new paraffin wax plant;

(b) if so, whether Government have selected any site for the same; and

(c) whether this product will be exported?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). Studies are presently under way by Madras Refineries Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation for the setting up of paraffin wax plants at Madras and Barauni respectively. A decision on the setting up of paraffin wax plants will be taken after Government have received and examined the Feasibility Studies.

(c) If there is surplus of product after meeting the domestic demand, the possibility of export will be considered.

Allotment of wagons for coal, cement, wheat, salt industries

1279. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have laid down guide-lines for the allotment of wagons for important industries/priority like coal, cement, wheat and salt;

(b) if so, what are the details of these guide-lines;

(c) whether any departure is made from these guide-lines; and

(d) if so, when and under what circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) and (b). Allotment of wagons to different commodities is governed by the Preferential Traffic Schedule which specifies priority for various commodities on the basis of their importance to the national economy. Within the priorities allotted to each commodity, allotment of wagons is done in accordance with the principle of 'first come first serve.'

(c) Normally, no.

(d) Does not arise.

Doubling of portion of Raipur-Vizianagram section (South Eastern Railway)

1280. SHRI P. K. DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for doubling the portions of the Raipur-Vizianagram section of the South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, which portion and the cost involved; and

(c) when will the work be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) There is no proposal at present.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Income of Railways

1282. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income of the Railways during the months of March to May, 1977 has decreased; and

(b) if so, the total sale of railway tickets during the above period and how does it compare with the sale of rail tickets during the corresponding period last year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) No.

(b) Question does not arise.

Re-instatement of Railway Employees in Tamil Nadu

1283. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the dismissed employees of the Railway in Tamil Nadu have been reinstated by the Government;

(b) if not, how many have been taken back;

(c) when will the left over employees be taken back; and

(d) the reasons for delay in taking them back?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) Yes, All railway employees dismissed in the context of May 1974 Railways Strike have been reinstated.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Derailment of 14 Up Bombay Janta Express

1284. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether four bogies of the 14 Up Bombay bound Janta Express from Madras derailed at Kem station on the South-Central Railway on 4th May, 1977;

(b) if so, whether a number of Railway employees were killed as a result thereof;

(c) whether the enquiry has revealed that this accident was due to negligence of the Railway employees; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter?