

formulations also remain under compulsory licensing, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether substantial price decontrol will now enable drug companies to make more money, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) As per the "Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986" five bulk drugs viz. (1) Vitamin B1 (2) Vitamin B2 (3) Folic Acid (4) Tetracycline and (5) Oxytetracycline have been kept reserved for public sector for the reason that adequate capacity exists in public sector to meet the country's demand and heavy public investment has been made for their production.

(b) Bulk drugs produced by the use of recombinant DNA technology, bulk drugs requiring in-vivo use of nucleic acids as the active principles and specific cell/tissue targetted formulations have been kept under compulsory licensing, since there is need to keep constant watch on these new and upcoming products in view of risks associated with their production.

(c) The pricing policy has been decided taking into consideration the aspects of availability, quality and price of medicines which are all equally important in the interest of common man.

[Translation]

Supply of Power to H.P.

3166. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of power being supplied by the Punjab Electricity Board to Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the percentage of power agreed to be supplied to Himachal Pradesh at the time of division of Punjab;

(c) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh and the Members of Parliament from that State, have urged the Union Government to persuade Punjab Electricity Board to give the agreed share of Himachal Pradesh to that State;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto and efforts being made in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the issue is likely to be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) There is no agreement for the supply of power from Punjab to Himachal Pradesh. However, Himachal Pradesh has been sharing power from the Bhakra-Nangal Beas Project.

(b) The provisions of the Punjab Re-organisation Act, 1966 do not specify the share of Himachal Pradesh out of the Bhakra-Nangal Beas Project.

(c) to (e). The Government of Himachal Pradesh has been claiming for the enhancement of its share from the Bhakra-Nangal Beas Project. The Government of India's stand in this connection is that this issue is to be resolved by the concerned States themselves since this is not a central sector project.

Ghatsila Copper Complex

3167. SHRI SHAILENDRA MAHTO : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dhobuni, Chapri and various other mines of H.C.L. (Hindustan Copper Limited)/I.C.C. have been lying closed since long and as a result of it, all the units of Ghatsila Copper Complex have been suffering heavy loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to restart these mines; and

(d) the number of the employees and their dependents facing financial loss/unemployment due to the closure of these copper producing mines/units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) : (a) and (b). Dhobani mine was not in Operation when Government nationalised ICC Group of Mines. Dhobani mine was closed by the erstwhile private management in 1953. As far as Chapri mine is concerned it is still a deposit and not an operating mine.

(c) HCL is examining the possibility of bringing back Dhobani mine in operation. To exploit the deposit of Chapri Sidheswar, Global tenders were invited for setting up of a joint venture proposal. However, the process of tendering has been suspended as the lease of the above deposit has not been renewed by the Government of Bihar and the matter is pending in Central Mining Tribunal. Since Dhobani mine was closed before HCL took over ICC group of mines in 1972, the losses due to its closure are not known.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given at (a) and (b) above.

[English]

High Level Appointments

3168. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact the age of superannuation of Board level officers of public sector undertakings is 58 years;

(b) if so, the details of such Board level officers in public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Surface Transport, who continued on their posts beyond the age of 58 years during 1993, 1994 and 1995 so far;