

(a) whether Government have decided on experimental basis to step up conversion of basic drugs into formulations and tablets;

(b) what is the extent of increase in capacity for stepping up the conversion of basic drugs into formulations proposed for the IDPL and by what time this increase in capacity and full utilisation thereof is likely to be achieved or has been achieved; and

(c) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that private drug companies, mostly foreign owned ones, have been indulging in exploitation and profiteering in the absence of effective competition from State-owned agencies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Government are giving all encouragement to public sector, Indian sector and small-scale sector units to step-up production of formulations. Public sector units would endeavour to consume 60 per cent of their production of bulk drugs for conversion into formulation. The Indian sector units are being given licences for production of formulations to the extent of 10 times the value of bulk drugs produced by them. A liberal distribution policy for canalised bulk drugs for small-scale sector has been announced in October, 1977. All these measures are expected to result in stepping up of formulation production in the country.

(b) IDPL sold Rs. 38.10 crores worth formulations in 1976-77. Government have approved the establishment of their own formulation projects of IDPL at Gurgaon and Madras, which are expected to be operative by late 1978. Government have also approved the establishment of a joint sector formulation unit at Lucknow in which IDPL and The Predi-shiya Industrial and Investment Cor-

poration of Uttar Pradesh are participating. This project is expected to be operative by middle 1979. These projects will increase the turnover of IDPL formulation by Rs. 41 crores, when full capacities are achieved.

(c) Government are aware that drug manufacturing units are producing formulations in excess of their approved capacities. But it is expected that with the increase in the formulation activities of public sector firms, apprehensions of exploitation by private drug companies will diminish.

As regards profiteering, prices of bulk drugs (excluding cases where declared prices are applicable) and formulations produced by the foreign drug companies are fixed under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970. Whereunder they are only, allowed to sell them at fair prices. However, the question of reviewing the prices of bulk drugs which are based on declared prices, is under consideration.

#### Allotment of Berths

4567. SHRI PUNDALIK HARI DANWE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) who are entitled to avail the privilege of allotment of berths from the H.O.R. Quota earmarked for Divisions and Headquarter Offices;

(b) whether Railway Officers, their relations and friends are also entitled to avail this facility;

(c) whether Government are aware that this facility is being misused by officers controlling this Quota on Allahabad, Moradabad, New Delhi and Bikaner Divisions of the Northern Railway and they generally allot berths to relations and friends of their colleagues; and

(d) if so, the number of such berths allotted on Divisions mentioned above and what preventive steps are being taken to stop misuse of H.O.R. Quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). This quota is meant for use of the Central/ State Ministers and high officials entitled to requisition rail accommodation on "High Official Requisition". When this quota is not utilised by those entitled to it, Members of Parliament, Foreign Tourists, Press correspondents, Government officials travelling on duty and other compassionate cases i.e. those travelling in connection with death, serious illness etc. are accommodated against the unutilised quota.

(c) and (d). The utilisation of this quota is kept under constant supervision to ensure proper use.

#### Price rise in Oil by Iran

4568. SHRI PARMANAND GOVIND-JIWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how many tons of crude is imported from Iran;

(b) what will be effect of the declaration of Shah of Iran to the effect "It is necessary to revise the price of oil despite Riyadh's objection"; and

(c) has the Government formulated any plan to meet the requirement of India in spite of the threatened price rise in oil by Shah of Iran?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) The import of crude oil from Iran during 1977 would be of the order of 6 million tonnes.

(b) Any comment on this is premature in view of the fact that OPEC Nations have yet to finalise their views on oil prices.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Hindi terminology of Railway Administration

4569. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a representation dated the 26th September, 1977 regarding Hindi terminology of Railway administration suggesting various Hindi words for English ones; and

(b) if so, what action have Government taken or propose to take and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes Sir, a letter was received.

(b) The terminology suggested in the said letter has been examined by the Railway Ministry and found to be difficult to understand and not in vogue. It has, therefore, been decided not to adopt it on Railways.

#### Assistance for Establishment of Drug Research Units

4570. DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to give assistance to indigenous producers of drugs for the establishment of drug research units; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). No Special Scheme of assistance to indigenous producers of drugs for the establishment of drug research units is operative. However, the import facilities available to industrial