

nationalise M/s. Hoechst India Ltd. A decision will be taken soon on the future role of all foreign drug companies operating in India in the context of recommendations made by the Hathi Committee.

Passes to retired Railway Police Personnel

2774. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passes for travelling were issued to Railway Police personnel recruited before June, 1937; after their retirement under rule 165;

(b) whether General Manager, Northern Railway has now withdrawn these concessions to such employees; and

(c) whether it means the breach of assurance and privilege of the retired employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). In accordance with the existing orders, the concessions of privilege passes and PTOs are granted only to those personnel of the Government Railway Police who have been employed on the Railway Police duties without any break w.e.f. 17-6-1937 on those Indian Railways where this concession was allowed immediately prior to 1-4-1937. However, such personnel on retirement are not eligible for post-retirement complimentary passes. Due to ignorance of the provisions of these rules, certain post-retirement complimentary passes were issued in one case by the D.I.G. Railways/Haryana on Northern Railway. On its detection this was stopped from 24-8-69.

(c) Does not arise.

Price of L-Base

2775. SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM

AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 17 regarding policy of L-Base on 21st February, 1978; and to state:

(a) the detailed reasons as to why Government could not fix the price of L-Base as per CCI&E pricing formula and suitably amended the price of Chloramphenicol after allowing a reasonable margin to the units, who convert L-Base, into Chloramphenicol and would have taken steps to subsidise production from basic stages as done earlier in 1972;

(b) what is the percentage increase in the price of medicines based on Chloramphenicol allowed after this inflated increase; and

(c) and how do Government justify their action that the whole exercise was not carried on to give advantage to the units as alleged by various Members of Parliament in their communication in December, 1977?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) The notified price of Chloramphenicol powder manufactured from basic stages is Rs. 558 per kg. for captive use and Rs. 586 per kg. for sale to others. The pooled price of Chloramphenicol based on imports and production from basic stages during the year 1977-78, was increased from Rs. 524.60 per kg. to Rs. 586 per kg. with effect from 1st of August, 1977. A number of units in the country were reported to be converting L-Base into Chloramphenicol and selling it at the price fixed for basic stage production/pooled price of the drug. They would have procured L-Base at a price of Rs. 422 per kg. worked out in accordance with CCI&E's formula from the State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Ltd. and would have, therefore, enjoyed unintended benefit in such a conversion. Since conversion of L-Base into