

(d) were those amendments validly made; and

(e) what was the number of share-holders that attended the meeting and also the percentage of share holders who voted for such meeting?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise

Steps by Government to produce Drugs indigenously and achieving self sufficiency

4501. **SHRIDURGA CHAND:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken during the last three years for indigenisation in the drug production and with what results;

(b) what is the percentage in the total consumption of drugs in the country for which we have to depend on multinationals in the country and on imports, separately;

(c) what is the percentage of life saving drugs produced indigenously and procured from the multinationals and imported separately;

(d) what is the future phased programme for achieving self-sufficiency in drugs; and

(e) by when self-sufficiency is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a), (d) and (e). Government have been encouraging, on a continuous basis, the setting up of additional capacities through grant of a large number of industrial approvals, with a view to promoting self-sufficiency in the field of drugs and pharmaceuticals. During the last 3 years as many as 216 Letters of Intent/Industrial Licences were issued for manufacture of drugs and pharmaceuticals. Out of the 216 approvals, only 34 were in respect of foreign firms, the rest being to the Public Sector (26) and the Indian Sector (16).

Consequently, during 1976-77 the values of production of bulk drugs and formula-

tions increased by 15% and 25% respectively as compared to the corresponding values for the year 1975-76.

Efforts are also being made in the country to develop a research base with a view to developing new drugs so as to meet the increasing demand in the country for drugs and avoid dependence on imports to the maximum extent possible.

In so far as the year-wise phasing of production of allopathic medicines is concerned, it would really depend upon the items likely to be taken up by individual manufacturer, the availability of suitable/latest technology, availability of funds for investment, particularly in the Indian Sector. However, the broad requirements of bulk drugs and formulations in the country have been estimated at Rs 550 crores and Rs 1900 crores respectively by 1982-83. Even so, imports of the order of Rs. 80 crores of bulk drugs may be necessary, because the nature of the drug industry and the pace of technological advance is such that a large amount of obsolescence takes place. There is always a need to keep a constant vigil to keep abreast of the situation by bringing in newer items of sophisticated manufacture and improved therapeutic value.

(b) The percentage contribution of foreign sector in 1976-77 was 32 in respect of bulk drugs and 41.7 in respect of formulations. Imports during that year were to the tune of 24% of bulk drugs. Imports of formulations was negligible.

(c) The percentage contribution of foreign sector in 1976/1976-77 in respect of certain selected life saving bulk drugs such as Antibiotics, Sulphas, Anti-Ameobie, Anti-diabetics, Cardio-Vascular, Anti-T.B., Anti-Malarial and Steroids was 29. Imports of such bulk drugs during that year were to the tune of 22%.

Cases of Removal of Fish-plates

4502. **SHRI AMARSINH V. RA-THAWA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of and details of the cases of removal of fish-plates from Railway tracks on various zones of the Railways during the period between November, 1977 to February, 1978, April 1977 and November 1977 and during 1975 and 1976;

(b) the number of persons involved and arrested in this connection and the action taken against them in each case;

(c) whether any organisations or political parties are involved in the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government has taken or propose to check the recurrence of such accidents in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Banks in Railway Stations

4503. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the Railway Stations selected for opening of Banks to facilitate the remittance of cash safely and withdrawal of salary and pension by the Railway employees ;

(b) whether Government have fixed quota for opening such Banks during the current financial year, (1978-79);

(c) if so, the number thereof; and

(d) expected time by which these are proposed to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) : (a) Efforts on a continuing basis are being made by the Railways for arranging for direct remittance of cash by stations to Banks. As a result of the efforts made station earnings are now being remitted to banks direct at 477 stations. Proposals to extend this arrangement at another 357 stations are under consideration. These arrangements are made with existing branches of the nationalised banks. Banks are also welcome to open their branches at station premises not only for handling cash collections but also for transacting other business. For opening branches at stations the Banks have to obtain a licence from the Reserve Bank of India. Wherever banks show interest in opening branches in Railway premises they are encouraged to do so and their cases are recommended by the Railways to the Reserve Bank of India.

Railway employees are encouraged to draw their salary by cheque or by credit to their bank accounts and wherever facilities exist and staff volunteer to receive payment in these forms arrangements are made for the same.

Railway pensioners can at present draw pension through nationalised banks at

22 stations. A proposal to extend this facility throughout the country is under consideration.

(b) to (d). No quota as such has been fixed but the aim is to maximise the number of stations at which these facilities are provided as early as possible. With this end in view proposals have been made to the Reserve Bank of India and the Ministry of Finance and these are under active consideration.

Production of Fertilizers during 1976-77 and 1977-78

4504. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that indigenous production of chemical and phosphate fertilizers in the country has shown upward trends during the year 1977-78; and

(b) if so, the total production during the years 1976-77 and 1977-78 in tonnes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requisite details are given below :

Year	(Production in lakh tonnes in terms of nutrients)	
	Nitrogen	Phosphate
1976-77	19.00	4.80
1977-78 (Estimated)	20.00	6.70

Train Examiners

4505. SHRI BALDEV SINGH JASROTHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) if it is a fact that there are two types of Train Examiners on the Indian Railways viz. Electrical and Mechanical ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that their recruitment qualifications are identical;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Train Examiners/Mech. have more training period than their counterparts as Train Examiners/Electrical;