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Divisional Office at Ranchi

4990. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the time by which the Railway Divisional Office at Ranchi would be set up; and
- (b) the reasons for the delay in setting up the said Divisional Office despite Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (b) Keeping various factors in view, the Government has decided to set up a Railway divisional office at Ranchi.

The date for inauguration of the office has not yet been finalised.

Prices of Life Saving Drugs

4991. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the multinational companies have highly increased the prices of life saving drugs whereas the

prices of medicines manufactured in the country are very less; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will implement the policy for promoting the small scale drug companies and discourage the multinational drug companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):
(a) Prices of scheduled formulations are fixed as per the provisions of the DPCO '95 irrespective of whether they are manufactured' by multinational companies or others. Companies are free to fix the prices of formulations falling outside price control. However, instances have come to notice where multinational companies tend to charge a comparatively higher price for their products outside price control, on the grounds that the drug is patented outside the country and the drug is imported from their principals.

(b) Ensuring abundant availability of quality medicines at reasonable prices is the foremost objective of the Drug Policy. To promote the small scale sector units in the drug sector, such units are exempted from price control as per the provisions of the Notification No. 134 (E) dated 2.3.95.