

some occasions namely, local Festivals, Melas, Republic Day celebrations, etc.

(b) As travelling on roofs is an offence under the law, no compensation is paid in such cases.

(c) Passengers travel on roofs of trains some times for want of accommodation and at others, even when the accommodation is available inside the coaches as a matter of habit.

Publicity campaigns are conducted regularly to bring to the notice of the travelling public through the Public Address System the hazards of such travelling. Frequent checks are conducted by the station staff and ticket checking staff against such irregular travel in co-ordination with the Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force.

On occasions of certain Melas, Festivals etc. special trains are also run and normal composition of trains augmented to clear the rush.

Suggestions made by Task Force for setting up Fertilizer Plant

1205. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJUNWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a task force has suggested that atleast 12 more fertilizer plants should be set up in the country to meet requirements of the country by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether a good number of private firms have shown interest in setting up new fertilizer factories in the country;

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme for setting up factories out of the 12 factories needed and if so, the gist of the private offers and Government's own scheme in this regard; and

(d) whether the location of the proposed factories have also been suggested by the task force and if so, the particulars thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) Recommendations of the Task Force include additional fertilizer capacity to be created to meet fully the domestic requirement for fertilizers by 1978-79. This additional capacity corresponds to 10-12 plants of standard capacity.

(b) Some proposals have been received in this regard, details of which are given in the statement placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-5247/73*].

(c) and (d). Government have approved in principle the setting up of five new fertilizer plants in the Public Sector in the Fifth Plan at Bhatinda, Panipat, Mathura, Paradeep and Trombay. These are among the locations suggested by the Task Force.

Utilization of Indian Basic Drugs by Foreign Drug Companies in their Formulations

1206. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJUNWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to compel the foreign drug companies operating in India to make 50 per cent formulation with Indian basic drugs;

(b) whether it has been studied that the basic Indian drugs are available in plenty for the manufacture of the drugs which these foreign firms are now manufacturing; and

(c) to what extent it will make a saving in foreign exchange and whether this rule is being made applicable to Indian firms also and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) No, Sir. The policy is not to encourage expansion of formulation activity, which is usually of a simple nature and comparatively more profitable, by foreign

drug companies. In fact in permitting expansion or taking up of new activities by foreign drug companies or other firms in the organised sector, conditions are usually imposed requiring them to make available a prescribed portion of their bulk drug production to other non-associated formulators. This is to encourage the Indian and particularly the small scale sector in drug industry.

(b) A number of drugs (basic drugs) for which domestic production is not adequate to meet the demand continue to be imported. Import of substantial number of such items has however been canalised through the State Trading Corporation, wherever a substantial out-flow of foreign exchange is involved towards import of any such item, or where it is felt that STC would be able to negotiate a substantially lower price for any such drug.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a).

Assistance from Japan for setting up Fertilizer plants

1207. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently Government of India have suggested to the Government of Japan that in case it cannot commit the whole quantity of foreign exchange for the five fertilizer plants to be set up by the Engineers India, at least the year to year allocation of the foreign exchange should be indicated;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government of Japan thereto; and

(c) whether Government have considered the feasibility of going ahead with the plan even if the foreign firms are not willing to cooperate and whether the question of associating the Indian firms instead has been considered and if so, the nature of decision taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Negotiations are presently

in progress about the foreign exchange financing of these projects with the Government of Japan. The modalities of financing are yet to be finalised.

(c) The requirement of external assistance for our fertilizer programme is mainly limited to the financing of supplies and services which are not available from within the country. Offers for such supplies have been received from several foreign companies.

Tunnels of Pong Dam plugged to impound water

1208. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the decision of the Central Government taken in February, 1973 the tunnels of the Pong Dam were plugged to impound water during the rainy season;

(b) whether this decision has since been implemented and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the constituent States had been consulted, particularly the State of Rajasthan, before deferring the implementation of the above decision and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total quantum of water that has gone to Pakistan due to the non-implementation of the decision and the loss of irrigation suffered by the State of Rajasthan and whether the plugging is proposed after monsoon and if so, how much water will be impounded as compared to the loss for not implementing the decision in time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (d). In February this year it was decided that efforts should be made to complete Pong Dam and other related works before the onset of monsoons to enable partial storage of waters.