

(a) whether the Railway Department are treated as essential services like the Armed Forces and the Border Security Force;

(b) whether the Armed Forces and the Border Security Force are given special preference for supply of rations and essential commodities; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to arrange supply of essential commodities to the Railway employees as is done for the Armed Forces and the Border Security Force ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Railway Department is not exactly on the same footing as Armed Forces and Border Security Force.

(b) Armed Forces have their own arrangements for messing and supply of ration and as such allotment of foodgrains are made directly from Central Pool for meeting their requirements.

So far as Border Security Force is concerned, only the non-gazetted personnel are getting essential commodities at controlled rates in a very limited way in certain areas only. In other areas they are treated at par with civilians.

(c) Does not arise.

Disparity in fixation of pay in revised scales, 1973

2717. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a wide disparity in fixation of pay in the revised scales, 1973 where the dearness allowance slab changes in the existing scales of pay;

(b) whether staff have been asked to exercise option for the revised scales of pay either from 1st January, 1973 or the date of their next increment;

(c) whether the benefit of 5 per cent of basic pay in existing scales subject to a minimum of Rs. 15 or maximum of Rs. 50 is denied to those opting for the

revised scales of pay from the date of their next increment resulting in much hardship and wide disparity in fixation of pay; and

(d) if so, whether to remove the disparity, Government propose to give equal treatment to those opting for the revised scales of pay from 1st January, 1973 as well as to those opting for it from the date of their next increment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Under the slab system of Dearness Allowance which was in force prior to 1-1-1973 there was substantial difference in the rates of dearness allowance as between successive slabs upto the pay range of Rs. 210—399 ranging from Rs. 12 to Rs. 33. Since the special pay fixation formula recommended by the Third Pay Commission requires pay in the revised scale to be fixed with reference to the existing emoluments which include dearness allowance, dearness pay and interim reliefs, persons drawing dearness allowance in the higher of such slabs are entitled to correspondingly higher rates of pay as compared to persons drawing dearness allowance in the lower of such slabs.

(b) Under Rule 5 of the Railway Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 1973, a Railway servant may elect to come over to the revised pay scales from 1-1-1973 or on the date on which he earns his next or any subsequent increment in the existing scale or until he vacates his post or ceases to draw pay in that scale.

(c) According to the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission, the pay of an employee who opts to come over to the revised scale after earning the next or any subsequent increment in the existing scale, had to be fixed in the revised scale under the Fundamental Rules and not under the special pay fixation formula recommended by it for persons who elect the revised scales from the date of their implementation. Under the Fundamental Rules, only the basic pay on the date of

option could be taken into account for fixation of pay in the revised scale. Government have, however, improved upon this recommendation by providing that in such cases not only the basic pay of such an employee on the date of option but also the Dearness Pay, Dearness Allowance and Interim Reliefs relatable to that basic pay at the rates in force prior to 1-1-1973 should be taken into account for fixing his pay in the revised scale.

(d) This matter will be examined further after receipt of the report of a committee set up by the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery to consider certain types of anomalies.

Consultations with Ministry of Industrial Development for preparing guidelines for drug industry

2718. SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry was consulted by the Ministry of Industrial Development while preparing guidelines about drugs and pharmaceuticals, included in the publication, 'Guide-lines for Industries, 1973-74'; and

(b) whether detailed measures to ensure largest possible share of the Indian sector are not mentioned therein and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) "The Guidelines" contain information about the present status of the drug industry, future prospects including scope for additional capacity for certain items as noted therein. It has also been suggested in the guidelines that before formulating their proposals, entrepreneurs are advised to seek the guidance of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, DGTD, etc. "The Guidelines" have been formulated with a view to furnish essential information to the intending entrepreneurs. The

licensing or approvals of Government for schemes submitted by such entrepreneurs would be decided in accordance with the policy of Government in force from time to time.

Expansion Proposals of M/s. Pfizers

2719. SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) the main features of M/s. Pfizers expansion proposal for capital issue for which consent was given in 1960 ;

(b) whether second approval for capital issue was also given in 1968, if so, for what amount and for what further expansion this further capital issue was granted.

(c) whether orders given in 1970 for disinvestment (raising of Indian equity from 25 per cent to 40 per cent) have been implemented if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that M/s. Pfizers have flouted any decisions of the licensing Committee in regard to (i) export bond (ii) disinvestment and (iii) physical verification by DGTD for specific limited plant for Oxytetracycline; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (e). M/s. Dumex (Private) Ltd. (changed to Pfizer Ltd.) were granted consent on 10-6-1960 to issue further equity capital of Rs. 25.10 lakhs to be subscribed by M/s. Pfizer Corporation, Panama.

The company having a paid-up equity capital of Rs. 75 lakhs held entirely by the parent company M/s. Pfizer Corporation Panama, was given consent on 27-10-1965 to issue capital of Rs. 191