

that they lack substantial evidence of effectiveness or that an unfavourable benefit to risk also exists in their case. Rutin tablets were included in this list.

It is understood that action has been initiated in U.S.A. to cause the withdrawal of rutin and other biflavyonoids preparation (usually prescribed in combination with ascorbic acid) from the market. The Essential Drugs Committee constituted by the Ministry of Health is going into the therapeutic efficacy of Rutin and is expected to make their recommendations after eliciting expert medical opinion in India on the subject.

Increase allowed in prices of certain Drugs produced by foreign firms

3675. SHRI DHAMANKAR:
SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to State:

(a) whether a good number of foreign firms have been allowed price hike on products like Vitamin B-Complex, Anti-biotic formulations and Vitamin-formulations to the extent of 50 per cent and more, without checking or investigating whether these companies had been having excessive marks up in any of their fast selling items;

(b) if so, the names of companies and the products for which price hikes have been allowed from January, 1974; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to ensure that no price increase is allowed unless Government are satisfied about the rationality and urgency of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). No price increases have been allowed to foreign

firms for their products like Vitamin B-Complex Antibiotic formulations and Vitamin formulations to the extent of 50% and more. Price increases for all the firms whether Indian or foreign are allowed after scrutiny of cost details.

Foreign companies marketing products of small units

3676 SHRI DHAMANKAR:
SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted some foreign companies to manufacture fine chemicals in India and that these companies purchased the fine chemicals from small scale units at cheaper prices and after re-packing marketed these chemicals at exorbitant prices;

(b) whether M/s. Hoechst Pharmaceuticals Private Limited have marketed Ampicillin manufactured through a small firm with a big profit margin, in contravention of Drug (Prices) Control Act, 1970, restriction on trading activities of foreign firms and D.G.T.D. restriction on production capacities; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken to stop such trading activities and to ensure a fair deal to small scale units for marketing their products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Supply of cement for Kangra Valley Railway Construction

3677 PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage in the supply of cement for the construction work in the re-alignment of the Kangra Valley Railway; if so, whether the progress of the work has been slowed down on account of this shortage;

(b) the estimated quantity of cement required for the whole project and the total quantity which has been supplied so far;

(c) whether Railways have taken any steps to overcome this shortage and complete the re-alignment according to schedule; and

(d) if so, the nature of steps taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI). (a) No.

(b) The estimated quantity of cement required for the whole project is 26,000 tonnes out of which 18,900 tonnes have already been supplied.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Decision to retain alien Directors in Larsen and Toubro Ltd.

3678 SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised their earlier decision in regard to the continuance of alien directors in Larsen & Toubro Ltd.;

(b) if so, the present position; and

(c) when was the decision taken and whether the Company has been informed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDA-BRATA BARUA). (a) and (b). In view of important works entrusted to the Company, the Government slightly modified their earlier decision so as to ensure some gradualness in the

changeover in top management. Shri Holck-Larsen alone has been re-appointed Managing Director for one year with effect from 1st April, 1974.

(c) The above decision was taken towards the end of March, 1974. The resolution passed by the Company subsequently is in accordance with the decision of Government in the matter.

Deputy Managing Directors of Larsen & Toubro Ltd.

3679. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that contrary to their directions, two ex-patriate Dy. Managing Directors of Larsen & Toubro Ltd. still continue to be directors in the associated and subsidiary companies; and

(b) if so, the action taken to ensure compliance to Government directions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDA-BRATA BARUA) (a) and (b). Information is being collected and a statement will be placed on the Table of the House.

Increase in strength of G.R.P.

3680. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Ministry has decided to increase the strength of G.R.P., if so, the reasons therefor particularly in view of the present economic crisis;

(b) salient features of the strength of G.R.P., Railway Ministry has decided to increase;

(c) whether the percentage of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes em-