

(c) steps being taken to improve the traffic; and

(d) the loss on passenger and goods traffic suffered by the Railways during these months?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) As compared to the first quarter of 1974-75 there is an increase in both passenger and goods traffic in the second quarter.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) of the question.

Directive to drug units to strengthen facilities for research and development

353. SHRI D. D. DESAI:

SHRI P. GANGADEB:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has asked the large drugs and pharmaceutical units to set up facilities for research in development process and reduction in production costs;

(b) if so, whether the Units have also been asked to strengthen their research and development base for reducing import of technology and improvement in quality control;

(c) whether any other instructions have been issued to these Units to boost research base; and

(d) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). The concerned drug manufacturing units have been advised as follows:—

(i) Industrial units with a turnover between Rs. 1 to Rs. 6 crores per annum should establish full-fledged formulation and packaging development laboratories with facilities for toxicological and bio-avail-

ability studies and process improvement measures;

(ii) Units with turnover of Rs. 6 crores and above should set up their own facilities for the above purpose and also for development of design, engineering and scale up activities;

(iii) Large units with turnover of Rs. 10 crores and above should establish their own full-fledged research centres with full facilities for progressive and innovational types of programmes as well.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Scarcity of certain drugs in the country

354. SHRI D. D. DESAI:

SHRI N. K. SANGHI:

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:

SARDAR MOHINDER SINGH GILL:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a near famine of sulphur drugs, antibiotics and vitamin preparations in the country particularly in Delhi for some time past;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that chemists fear worse in the coming months;

(c) whether manufacturers plead that they are not getting adequate supplies of raw materials from Government agencies; if so, steps being taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether manufacturers are not marketing their products due to the revision of prices of certain drugs proposed to be made by his Ministry; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R.

GANESH): (a) to (e). No Sir. Except for Vitamin B6 and Sulphaguanidine for which international availability is rather difficult, STC have made arrangements to import adequate stocks of canalised bulk drugs and drug intermediate to meet the requirements of the drug industry. STC and IDPL have very large stocks of bulk drugs available with them.

(d) and (e) The revision of prices of drugs is a continuing process under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970. The procedure for revising prices has been streamlined to ensure expeditious price revisions and continued availability of drugs in the market. The drug manufacturing units with turnover not exceeding Rs 50 lakhs per annum have been expeditious price revisions and containing Government approval for prices of their formulations.

Supply of crude oil by ESSO for its Bombay Refinery

355. **SHRI N. K. SANGHI:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ESSO was allowed to retain 26 per cent shares holdings of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation on the understanding that the company will secure supplies of crude for its Bombay refinery at a price less than those charged by oil producing countries;

(b) whether Government had estimated a saving of Rs. 14 crores through this concessional supply till 1981;

(c) whether the ESSO has failed to supply and the price advantage between the price charged would be the same as those charged by the producing countries; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (d). Security of supply and the price advantage between the prices charged by the private oil companies and the National Oil companies of the oil producing countries of the Middle East, prevailing at the time of acquisition of shares by Government in Esso's operations in India, were considerations which were taken into account while acquiring shares to the extent of 74 per cent only. As per the Agreement with Exxon International Oil Company for supply of crude to the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation refinery, the price for the crude shall be the same as that charged by Exxon to its affiliates in the Far East. The price of crude supplied by Exxon to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation from 14th March, 1974 till end of October, 1974 has been lower than the going price for crude of similar quality.

Shortage of raw material for drug manufacturers in Delhi

356. **SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug manufacturers of Delhi are facing financial crisis due to long delays in supply of raw materials and this has resulted in non-availability of vital drugs and preparations; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take for the regular supply of raw materials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) No such report has been received from the Drug manufacturers of Delhi.