

रतलाम में राजधानी एक्सप्रेस को रोकने का निर्णय

4865. श्री झोंकार लाल बरेवा : क्या रेल मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने राजधानी एक्सप्रेस को 23 फ़रवरी 1975 से रतलाम में रोकने का निर्णय किया था; और

(ख) यदि हा तो राजधानी एक्सप्रेस को कोटा (राजस्थान) में जो एक औद्योगिक क्षेत्र है और पश्चिम रेलवे का एक डिवीजनल मुख्यालय है न रोकने के क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मन्त्रालय में उपमन्त्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) : (क) 151/152 नयी दिल्ली-बम्बई सेंट्रल राजधानी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियां शुरू से ही परिचालनिक कारणों से रतलाम में रुकती रही। इन गाड़ियों द्वारा रतलाम भ्राने-जाने वाले यात्रियों की बुकिंग 22-2-75 से चालू कर दी गयी है।

(ख) परिचालनिक कारणों से कोटा स्टेशन पर ठहराने की व्यवस्था नहीं की गयी है। इस गाड़ी को कोटा और अन्य स्टेशनों पर रुकवाने की व्यवस्था से इसकी रफ्तार कम हो जायेगी जिससे इस गाड़ी को चालू करने का उद्देश्य ही समाप्त हो जायेगा।

Valuation of increase in prices of drugs

4866. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any valuation of the increase in the prices of drugs in the last two years;

(b) if so, the variation in the prices of the more important drugs which are in common use;

(c) the variation in the prices of life saving drugs not covered by (b); and
328 LS—7.

(d) the steps taken by Government to bring down the prices of drugs, especially drugs manufactured by foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) to (d). The Index number of whole-sale prices of drugs and medicines with 1961-62 as the base year is as follows:

Year	Index No.
1972-73	148.7
1973-74	148.7
1974-75	174.9

(upto October, 1974)

Statement I showing the prices of important bulk drugs as in force from time to time is laid in the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-9318/75]. Statement II giving an illustrative list of the prices of some of the raw materials, both indigenous and imported, that prevailed in September, 73 and April, 74 is laid in the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No LT-9318/75].

There is a comprehensive price control on drugs. However, Drugs and Pharmaceutical units with a sales turn-over not exceeding Rs. 50 lakhs per annum have been exempted from obtaining Government's approval for fixation/revision of prices of their products.

Interim price revisions for formulations have been/are being allowed on account of increase in the prices of raw materials and packing materials etc. and in the case of bulk drugs on account of major raw materials and inputs and after proper scrutiny by a competent authority namely BICP/ Ministries concerned.

Government have set-up a Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Industry whose terms of reference *inter alia* include:

"to examine measures taken so far to reduce the prices of drugs for the consumer and to recommend such further measures as may be necessary to rationalise the prices of basic drugs and formulations."

The Committee is expected to submit its report in April, 1975. The present pricing policy of drugs and medicines would be reviewed in the light of the recommendations of the Committee.

Expansion of foreign drug firms

4867. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy with regard to expansion of foreign firms engaged in the manufacture of drugs; and

(b) if so, the details of that policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH):
(a) and (b). No, Sir.

However, in accordance with the Ministry of Industrial Development Press Note dated the 16th February, 1973 foreign concerns and subsidiaries and branches of foreign companies are eligible to participate in the industries specified in Appendix I thereof (Drugs and Pharmaceuticals being one such industry) along with other applicants but their investment will be subject to the guidelines on dilution of foreign equity and will be examined with special reference to technological aspects, export possibilities and the overall effect on the balance of payments. Government have taken the following measures to regulate the expansion of the foreign companies and to encourage the growth of the Indian sector:—

(i) The Indian sector of the industry is given preference in approval of manufacturing schemes;

(ii) Manufacture of increasing number of bulk drugs through public sector undertakings;

(iii) Industrial licences are usually not issued to foreign firms for producing formulations unless linked with the production of bulk drugs;

(iv) They are asked to take up production of bulk drugs from more basic stages and to make available a suitable portion of their bulk drugs production to non-associated formulators in the country as a condition for being permitted expansion in capacity or for taking up new activity. Appropriate export obligations are also imposed.

(v) Increasing number of imports of bulk drugs and intermediates are canalised through the S.T.C., which now constitutes over 60 per cent of the total imports of bulk drugs and drug intermediates

(vi) Progressive reduction of foreign equity participation with corresponding increase in the Indian shareholding is imposed when they are allowed expansion of their manufacturing activities.

In addition all companies having a foreign equity exceeding 40 per cent are required to obtain approval of the Government under FERA, 1973.

With a view to ensuring the regulated and rapid growth of drug manufacture and further with a view to ensuring that all essential drugs are made available to the consumers at reasonable prices, Government have appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi whose terms of reference inter alia include:—