

various antibiotics and other drugs in the public and private sectors ;

(b) whether penicilline is manufactured in public and private sectors ; and

(c) the manufacturing cost of penicilline per phial and the cost charged from the consumers per phial ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) A statement showing the capacity approved/licensed for the manufacture of essential drugs both in the private and public sectors and the actual production during 1968 and in January to September, 1969 is laid on the Table of the House. [*Place in Library. See LT-2161/69*]. The statement indicates the extent of progress made in the manufacture of various antibiotics and other drugs in the two sectors.

(b) Yes.

(c) The manufacturing cost of penicilline is not available but the retail prices of certain penicillin preparations of a few firms are indicated in the statement laid on Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2161/69*].

Gandak Projects Scheme, Bihar

2035. SHRI B. P. MANDAL :
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VERMA :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of the Gandak Project Scheme in Bihar up-to-date ;

(b) the proportion of contribution in the Gandak Project Scheme by the Central Government and the Bihar Government respectively ; and

(c) whether for want of fund all works of the Gandak Scheme are at stand still at present ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) Construction of the Gandak barrage is almost complete. In the Tirhut

canal, work has been completed up to R. D. 553. Work on the Don branch canal and main Western canal and Nepal Eastern canal is in an advanced stage. Some work is also in progress on the Saran and Ghorasahan branch canals. Foundation excavation of the Power House has been completed and sheet piling and concreting work are in progress.

(b) Irrigation projects form part of State Plans. In the Annual Plan of the Bihar State for 1969-70, an outlay of Rs. 9.5 crores has been earmarked for the Gandak Project by the Planning Commission. The proposals to increase this outlay partly from State resources and partly by accelerated Central assistance are under consideration.

(c) No, Sir. Owing to non-availability of resources on the scale required, work has, however, been slowed down since 1967 on the Saran canal and Ghorasahan branch canal, in order to concentrate available resources on the other components where work is in full swing.

Operations by Geological Survey of India

2036. SHRI B. P. MANDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Geological Survey Teams are operating at present in the country ;

(b) if so, the number of such teams and the names of the States where they are operating ; and

(c) whether it is not a fact that there is ample scope of geological operations, specially in the Himalayas, if so, whether Government contemplate to undertake such operations at gigantic scale ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 570 investigations included in the field programme of the Geological Survey of India for the current year 1969-70 are proposed to be taken up by the survey

teams in almost all the States and Union Territories of India.

(c) There is ample scope for geological operations in Himalayas. The Geological Survey of India have already stepped up their operations in Himalayas region. Additional systematic geological surveys, assessment of mineral resources, study of energy resources, terrain evaluation is proposed to be undertaken during the Fourth Plan Period by the Geological Survey of India.

Demands made by National Coal Organisation Employees Association

2037. SHRI B. K. MODAK ;
SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU ;
SHRI MOHAMMED ISMAIL ;
SHRI GANESH GHOSH ;
SHRI BHAGABAN DAS ;

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

(a) whether National Coal Organisation (Government of India) Employees Association (Darbhanga House, Ranch) submitted a memorandum to the Chairman, National Coal Development Corporation containing a number of demands ;

(b) If so, the main points of that memorandum ; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken by Government on the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A statement containing the main demands is attached :

Statement

1. Non-reduction in the quantum of variable dearness allowance from 1st October, 1969 and modification of the formula laid down in the Wage Board Award for coal indus-

try for payment of variable dearness allowance ;

2. Implementation of some recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Coal industry which have not been accepted by the Central Government (such as introduction of gratuity scheme, grant of casual leave to daily rated and piece-rated workers, waiving of attendance requirement for payment of quarterly attendance bonus under the coal Mines Bonus scheme and provision of rent-free accommodation to all employees) ;

3. Improvement of pay scales, method of fixation of pay in Wage Board pay scales and service conditions beyond the recommendations of the Wage Board ; payment of wage for the period of illegal strike to workers of Gidi 'A' colliery during June-July 1967 ;

4. Appointment of an employee from among the ranks of workers as a Director of National Coal Development Corporation ;

5. Giving preference to relations of employees in the matter of employment.

(c) The Regional Labour Commissioner (C), Dhanbad, initiated conciliation proceedings and the management of the National Coal Development Corporation held a series of meetings with the Union's representatives. As a result agreement was reached on a large number of points.

New System of Fixing Oil Prices

2038. SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA ;
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to radically change the existing system of fixing oil prices in India ; and