

stopped their service between Amritsar and Kabul ;

(b) the period for which this service was in operation ; and

(c) the reasons for its discontinuance ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A seasonal service was in operation from May 1967 until the suspension of Indian Airlines' overflights across Pakistan territory from 4th February 1971.

Steps to bring down the prices of Pharmaceuticals

*281. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether identical pharmaceutical items are being sold at different price level by different manufacturers ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to bring down their prices to a reasonable level with relevance to cost, profitability and other aspects ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :

(a) The prices of similar items vary from unit to unit depending upon the mark-up employed, within the limits prescribed under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, and the type and cost of packing material used.

(b) The main objective of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970 is to ensure availability of drugs at reasonable prices. The prices in turn are fixed with reference to material cost, conversion cost, packing charges and an element of mark-up, etc., as laid down in the Order.

Capital invested in industrial Ventures in Foreign Countries

*283. SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA :
will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Indian capital invested in industrial ventures in foreign countries ; and

(b) the dividends repatriated during 1969-70 and 1970-71 ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) Out of the total approved joint ventures, 28 have already been set up with total Indian investment of the order of Rs. 448.5 lakhs.

(b) The total amount repatriated to India by way of dividends in the year 1969-70, as per information available with the Government, is Rs. 6.81 lakhs. It is too early to expect the dividends to be declared and repatriated to India for the year 1970-71.

Nationalisation of Colgate Palmolive (India) Private Ltd.

*285. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to nationalise Colgate-Palmolive (India) Private Limited in view of the fact that this Company has been earning huge profit and remitting it to U.S.A. in U.S. dollars ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) :
(a) and (b). No, Sir. However it has been the policy of Government gradually to increase the Indian shareholding in such companies.

Sale of Rustom Crude to Japan by India

*286. SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK :
SHRI N. K. SANGHI :

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

(a) whether Japan has agreed to buy Rustom Crude from India ;

(b) if so, the main terms of the agreement reached in this regard ; and