

(3) the complete stoppage of movement on the South Eastern Railways for some days in June and July and later on the Eastern Railways in September beside partial dislocation of rail transport over long period during July to September due to strikes and labour troubles on the Railways ; and

(4) heavy rains during August and September affecting production in a number of mines.

(c) Production will be stepped up when overall coal demand particularly coking coal picks up. The transport problems are discussed then and there with the concerned Railway Authorities who have been requested to take measures to improve the wagon supplies. N C D C has programmed for a production of about 16 m. tonnes in 1971-72 as against the actuals of about 14 m. tonnes in the current year.

Reduction in the Prices of Drugs

*4. SHRI RAMAVTAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND NON-FERROUS METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the measures so far taken by Government to control the drug prices have proved ineffective and the prices of many important drugs have gone up considerably in the last ten months ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the further steps Government propose to take to bring down the drug prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROIEUM, CHEMICALS AND NON-FERROUS METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). No. As a result of the Drug Price Control Order prices of a number of important and popular drugs have come down appreciably. In some cases prices have also gone up. In all these cases the reason is the increased cost of raw materials and other costs. This is inevitable in a system of price rationalisation

which is aimed at by the Price Control Order. Government have however taken care to see that the increases have been kept down as much as possible. Government have powers to revise the prices wherever considered necessary. The new prices have come into effect only from 15th January 1971 and Government would like to watch the situation for some time.

Ban on Pakistani Aircraft Flying over India

*8. SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is thinking of lifting ban on Pakistani over-flights ;

(b) whether Pakistan is trying to have a third party intervention ;

(c) whether India agreed to it ; and

(d) whether India is firm on direct talks with Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Pakistan did make efforts to get some countries interested in this matter, but we have made it clear that this matter can best be resolved bilaterally between India and Pakistan.

Protest to Pakistan about Hijacked Indian Plane

*13. SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government lodged a protest with the Pakistan Government about the Indian Airlines plane which was sky-jacked, when on a flight between Jammu and Srinagar on the 30th January, 1971 ; and

(b) if so, the reaction and the reply received from Pakistan ?