

(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 ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Pakistan have rejected our protest and disowned responsibility for the hijacking and destruction of our plane.

Russian Warships in Indian Ocean

1. DR. KARNI SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has more war-ships than any other country in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the number thereof vis-a-vis those of other countries;

(c) whether any protests have been lodged with that country to leave it as an area of peace; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Russian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM): (a) and (b). The precise strength of the warships of different nations present in the Indian Ocean is not known.

(c) and (d). Government are of the view that the presence in the Indian Ocean of the naval fleet of countries not bordering the Indian Ocean is unnecessary and is likely to create tension. These views have been made known to the Powers concerned. Under international law, ships (including war-ships) of all countries have freedom of movement in the High Seas outside the territorial waters of littoral States. The question of making a formal protest to countries whose warships remain in the Indian Ocean does not, therefore, arise.

Representation of Workers and Officers of Indian Oil Corporation on Management Board

2. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMI-

CALS AND NON-FERROUS METALS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 9 on the 9th November, 1970 regarding representation of Workers and Officers of Indian Oil Corporation on the Management Board and state:

(a) whether the matter has since been considered and a final decision taken;

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken and the broad outlines thereof; and

(c) if not, the further time likely to be taken in taking a decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND NON-FERROUS METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) to (c). The matter is still under consideration of the Government and a decision will be taken shortly.

Allotment of Accommodation to Government Employees

3. SHRI A. N. CHAWLA: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government employees waiting for Government accommodation for the last more than 15, 16, 17 and 18 years;

(b) the specific measures adopted by Government to provide Government accommodation to those who have completed more than 15 years of service;

(c) the number of Government employees who have been residing in much lower type of accommodation allotted to them much earlier when they were holding junior posts and do not want to change to their entitled types; and

(d) the action Government propose to take against them so that these accommodations could be allotted to the persons who