

Efficiency of Zonal Railways

*228. SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comparative study has been made of the efficiency of the various Zonal Railways for achieving quick wagon turn-round and accident-free travel, and

(b) the extent to which the performance of the most efficient Zonal Railway has been brought to the notice of other Railways as a model to be followed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF MADHU DANDAVATE) (a) and (b) No specific comparative study of Wagon turn-round on the Railways has been made mainly owing to the fact that such a comparison is not possible in absolute terms due to varied working conditions on different Railways. However, for each Zonal Railway, keeping in view its special features, targets are set and the performance watched *vis-a-vis* such targets. These reviews embrace not only physical performance but also financial results.

The performance of each Zonal Railway in the sphere of safety is kept under close and constant scrutiny. Besides, an annual assessment is made and the Railway with the best performance in the sphere of safety during a particular year is awarded the Railway Minister's Safety Shield. The Safety Shield for the year 1977 was awarded to Northeast Frontier Railway and this information was communicated to the other Railways also.

Dilution of Foreign equity to 40 per cent by Foreign Drug Companies

*229 SHRI GANANATH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the foreign drug companies who will be required to dilute their foreign equity

to 40 per cent in terms of the new drug policy; and

(b) by what period the dilution will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H N BAHUGUNA). (a) According to Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 the maximum permissible levels of foreign shareholding in foreign companies are 74 per cent or 51 per cent or 40 per cent depending on the nature and character of the activities of the company. However as per the New Drug Policy, foreign companies engaged only in the manufacture of formulations or bulk drugs not involving high technology or both will be required to bring down their foreign equity forthwith to 40 per cent. As regards the remaining companies, the level at which they could retain foreign equity will be examined under the FERA guidelines as applicable to all other industries.

So far as the companies engaged in the manufacture of formulations are concerned, Ministry of Finance have instructed the Reserve Bank of India to issue the necessary directives to such companies to bring down their foreign equity to the level of 40 per cent.

To identify the companies engaged in the manufacture of bulk drugs not involving high technology, a High Level Committee consisting of Secretaries to the Government in the Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers Industrial Development, Technical Development and Science and Technology, assisted by experts has been constituted.

In terms of the New Drug Policy, Ministry of Finance (Deptt of Economic Affairs) have called for necessary data to deal with the FERA cases of all the drug companies. The level at which each foreign drug company should keep its foreign equity will be known only after final decisions on their FERA applications are taken by the Government.