

some important discussions aimed at re-opening the Suez Canal. Both the U.N. Mediator, Dr. Jarring, and the U. S. Secretary of State have made efforts in this respect. The UAR is understood to have agreed to the reopening of the Canal provided Israel makes a partial withdrawal from the Eastern Bank of the Canal and UAR troops are allowed to cross to the East Bank. But the Government of Israel has attached certain other conditions unacceptable to the UAR, such as a ceasefire which would continue indefinitely even in the absence of an overall settlement.

(b) Government are closely watching developments in this respect, but concrete follow-up steps can be taken only after it is known if and when the Canal will be reopened.

**Issuing of Press Notes by High Commissioner of Pakistan Re: Bangla Desh Trouble**

\* 761. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan High Commission in India has been issuing press notes to the newspapers to propagate that trouble in Bangla Desh was created by India;

(b) whether some Urdu journals have given wide publicity to such press notes;

(c) if so, whether Government imposed any censorship on the publicity material now being issued by the Pakistan High Commission in India; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):** (a) to (d). No Press Notes of this character have come to the notice of the Government. Further enquiries are being made. If and when any new facts come to light in this context, appropriate action will be taken.

**Establishment of a Plant for Conversion of Natural Gas into liquid Petroleum Gas**

\* 763. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the

proposal of Oil India Limited to establish a plant to process its reserves of natural gas into liquid petroleum gas for use as household fuel;

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal; and

(c) When it is likely to be set up?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** (a) No, Sir. No proposal has yet been submitted by Oil India Limited.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Shares of Foreign Firms and Public Sector Plants in the Production of the drugs**

\* 766. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars regarding the share of production by the Foreign Firms and the share of Public Sector plants in total value of drugs during 1969-70; and

(b) whether there is any plan under Government's consideration to reduce the foreign domination in this vital sector?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):** (a) The public sector plants and foreign firms (i.e. firms having foreign equity exceeding 50%) accounted for about 6% and 45% respectively of the total drug production during 1969-70;

(b) Yes, Sir. The measures adopted broadly are:

(i) progressive reduction of foreign equity participation with corresponding increase of Indian shareholding in the firms concerned;

(ii) non-issuance generally of licence for producing formulations, except those of a sophisticated nature or where the formulation capacity is linked with the production of bulk drugs; and

(iii) imposition of appropriate export obligations as a condition precedent to expansion of capacity.