

(b) The main demand of the Resident Doctors of AIIMS is the withdrawal of the orders of termination of Residency (MCh. Course of Dr. Pankaj Kumar Upadhyay. Dr. Upadhyay's services were terminated on the grounds of incompetence and indiscipline and, therefore, his reinstatement is not acceptable, Dr. Upadhyay can, however, file an appeal to the Appellate Authority, which he has not done.

(c) & (d). Yes, Sir. prolonged discussions were held at various levels to resolve the strike, but no solution emerged because of the insistence on reinstatement of Dr. Upadhyay by the Resident Doctors' Association.

Asset Stripping of Public Sector Undertakings

420. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the asset stripping of public sector by Government have received criticism from several quarters including planning Commission Members;

(b) if so, the suggestions advocated against asset stripping; and

(c) The Government's reaction thereto, to ensure more autonomy to public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Collaboration between India and Singapore

421. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Singapore have recently entered into any agreement for collaboration in the field of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) The time by which it is likely to be made effective; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the cooperation with Singapore in the field of Science and Technology during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir. An inter-governmental Agreement on Cooperation in Science & Technology between India and Singapore was signed at Calcutta on January 4, 1995.

(b) The Agreement envisages cooperation in the Scientific fields, including management of research & development through exchange of Information, exchange

of researchers, joint execution of research & development projects, organisation of joint seminars and commercialisation of technologies in India and Singapore or any third country including participation in joint ventures. The Agreement will be executed by conclusion of mutually agreeable programmes of cooperation.

(c) This Agreement shall enter into force after approval by the two countries in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures and exchange of notes concerning such approvals through diplomatic channels.

(d) Discussions have been initiated by identification of a few broad areas like Information Technology, Biotechnology, Materials Science, Chemical Technology and Telecommunications for our cooperation.

Standardisation of Drugs

422. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding standardisation of drugs under Indian System of Medicines is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c). Three Pharmacopoeia Committees i.e. Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia Committee, Unani Pharmacopoeia Committee and Sidha Pharmacopoeia Committee have been set up to work out Pharmacopoeial Standard of ISM drugs. The Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia Committee has laid down the standards for 80 single drugs of plant origin and published in the form of Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India Pt. I. Standardisation of drugs is a continuous process. Therefore, it will not be possible to fix a time schedule for the completion of this work.

[English]

Prices of Newsprint

423. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI TARA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) have expressed concern over the increase in the price of newsprint recently;

(b) if so, the extent of increase during the last year;

(c) whether the said increase have adversely affected the newspaper organisations; and