

of reference of the Committee, *inter alia* included "to examine the measures taken so far to reduce the prices of drugs for the consumer and to recommend such further measures as may be necessary to rationalise the prices of basic drugs and formulations."

The Committee submitted its report on 6th April, 1975 and made comprehensive review of the pricing policy and efforts made by the Government in making available medicines at reduced prices. While taking a view on the recommendations of the Committee the question of price stability for the consumer and reasonable return for the manufacturer is being kept in view.

#### Export of Basic Chemicals

2630. SHRI DHAMANKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the export-performance of basic chemicals, drugs, pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals and organic and inorganic chemicals during the last one year in terms of quantity and value;

(b) how does it compare with the figures for the corresponding previous two years; and

(c) what are the reasons for the decline in exports in certain cases and what steps are proposed to be taken to boost the trade?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Wharfage on unloaded goods

2631. SHRI C. H. MOHAMED KOYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether free time allowance regarding wharfage on unloaded goods for Sundays and national holidays has been stopped since September, 1975;

(b) whether he is aware of the difficulties pointed out by the business community in this regard; and

(c) if so, steps proposed in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) In view of the urgent need for quicker release of wagons and better utilization of terminals, the railways have been authorised to open certain important goods sheds and parcel offices on Sundays. The names of Stations/Goods sheds etc. are notified and adequate publicity is given to the trade before introducing the arrangement. Only at such notified stations Sundays are reckoned for levy of wharfage. Independence Day and Republic Day continue to be treated as dies non for the levy of wharfage.

(b) and (c). Representations have been received from some quarters pointing out various difficulties. On reconsideration, the number of stations where Sunday working was introduced has been reduced. The position is kept under constant review.

#### Completion of conversion of Barabanki-Muzaffarpur Line into Broad Gauge

2632. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target date for the completion of conversion of metre gauge line between Barabanki and Muzaffarpur into broad gauge line;

(b) the initial date fixed for the completion of the conversion and the number of times it has been revised; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure completion of the conversion in time?