

SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

While thanking the hon. Minister for having taken note of the serious problem, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that it is not only necessary that the proposed project be commissioned but it would be the first of its kind in the country and would be a major breakthrough in conventional type of storage, using electric energy entirely generated from conventional sources. May I know from the honourable Minister as to what are the recommendations of the J.R. and D. and how much time does it take to be translated into action?

SHRI VASANT SATRE: Sir, we have already contacted some parties who manufacture the equipment, and we would be setting up this pilot plant. The idea is to have a combination of solar and bio-mass because solar energy will be available during the day and we will need to supplement it during the night by another source, and for that also we want to use a non-conventional source, that is, the bio-mass system. Thus the combination of these two would be able to give us sufficient energy for a pilot plant for deep freeze arrangement for fisheries.

SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Sir, the Idarnataka Fisheries Development Corporation is a State public sector undertaking. The proposal was sent as early as October 1983, which is almost three and a half years. May I know from the honourable Minister, keeping in view the fact that there is a lot of pressure from the fishermen in Karnataka State having acute power shortage, whether the project would be cleared as early as possible? We have proposed to set up two tonner units of about 10,000 k.g. of fish in each and, so, as a special consideration, would the Minister positively respond to this question and say in how much time it will be cleared?

SHRI VASANT SATRE: I am positively responding that it will be set up. We have already identified the parties and placed orders with them for preparing the equipment. About time I definitely can-

not say, whether it will be one or two years; but it will be as early as possible.

{Interruptions}

* *248. [The questioners Shri T. R. Babu and Shri V. G. Gopalsamy were absent. For answer, vide cols. 39-40 infra.]

Report of the National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Council

*249. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Council have submitted a report on the development of the drug industry;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the report; and

(c) if so, what specific recommendations have been made in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b and c) The relevant details are contained in the Report of the National Drugs and Pharmaceutical Development Council, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

श्री अशोक नाथ वर्मा : सभापति महोदय, क्या सरकार ने एसेन्शियल ड्रग्स के बारे में अंतिम लिस्ट बनाई है ?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: Sir, on the category I drugs we have asked the Health Ministry to draw up the list and on category II, which is going to be the list of essential drugs, a committee has been appointed under the BICP Chairman and they are expected to submit the report by the end of May or the beginning of June.

श्री अशोक नाथ वर्मा : सभापति महोदय, क्या सरकार एसेन्शियल ड्रग्स के प्राइस कंट्रोल के संबंध में कोई कदम उठा रही है या इस बारे में सोच रही है जिस से सामान्य जनता को ये दवाएं उपलब्ध हो सकें ?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH. Sir, the measures that we have come out with in December 1986 are a step forward to increase production of essential drugs. As far as the prices are concerned, we have emphasized in the measures also that not only should the production be increased but the availability should also be at reasonable prices. For that, unless the production goes up the question of availability at reasonable prices will not be relevant. "The category I drugs, will look into the essential area, that is, the National Health Programme which the Health Ministry is administering. Then the category II drugs, as I said just now, will encompass the essential drugs. Once this list is drawn up, the new DPCO will come into force."

DR. BAPU KADATE: The Hathi Committee has recommended, and I will just quote:

"The Committee firmly believes that in order to achieve national objective and to protect the consumer, price control by itself is not enough. What is needed is a multi-pronged approach."

May I ask the Minister: Have you decided about the multi-pronged approach to keep the prices of drugs at a level at which consumers can have them?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: Sir, besides what has been just stated by me that category 1 and category 2 are the areas in which Government is going to have control on the prices of drugs, about the decategorised items, that is, all other drugs which are not to be price-controlled, we have introduced a new mechanism in the new measures, and this is the media price monitoring. Government has the right to monitor prices of all the drugs depending on various aspects, and we have a right to bring back any drug which is a de-controlled item, into the controlled list. So, this price mechanism will help in a big way to check the rise in the prices which may have been effected by some of the companies, and it will take care of the consumers' interests.

SHRI AG. KULKARNI: Sir, may I know from the Minister whether the Pharmacy Council which has submitted a

report, has taken any cognizance of the persistent reports from the world press that the drugs which are harmful to human beings are dumped in the third world countries and whether his Ministry in this policy has taken care of it to stop these harmful drugs being introduced in the third world countries, particularly in our country?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: Sir, there are, I think, two parts of the question which the hon. Member has raised. The second is about the harmful drugs, and the other one is about the report whether it has been discussed in the NDPDC.

Sir, the aspect of harmful drugs is being dealt with by the Health Ministry. Whenever a drug is introduced in the country, it is to be certified by the Drug Controller of India. Then only, the Industry Ministry, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals give the licence, if required. We have come out with these new measures and for this aspect, I believe that the Health Ministry has already formed a committee to look into this, and I think once the committee gives its report, we should be able to act on it.

The second thing is whether this has been mentioned in the NDPDC. I do not have the entire write-up on the NDPDC. I do not know whether this has been referred to. But we have taken care of this factor in our new measures.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The present policy of the Government is to give profit to manufacturers who manufacture the most essential drugs, to give medium profit to those who manufacture essential drugs and to give the maximum profit to those who manufacture non-essential drugs. This acts as a disincentive for the manufacturers to manufacture the essential drugs. Would the Government consider this policy and give profitability to manufacturers so that they will be enthused to manufacture the most essential drugs? Otherwise does the Government not think that this scheme works in a lopsided manner contrary to the intention of the Government and to the expectation of the public?

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: Sir, it is only because of this reason in fact, it is one of the reasons why we had increased the mark-up at present. We have three categories of drugs—category 1, category 2 and category 3. It is mostly in the present categories I am saying these essential drugs belong. And because we wanted the manufacturers increase their production of these drugs we have increased the mark-up from 40, 55 to 75 per cent and 100 per cent and we expect that more production and more investment would come.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the thrust is to develop the drug industry. I would like to ask the Minister whether they consulted the public sector projects, namely, the HAL and the IDPL in formulating the policy with regard to development of the drug industry.

SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH: It is a very difficult question to answer. The hon. Member has asked me on that aspect I consulted. It is too general. I will not be able to react to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is too general. You can put a separate question. Now, We go to next Question.

Illegal mining in collieries

*250 SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR;

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH; f

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal mining of coal in various collieries is rampant;

(b) if so, what are the details in regard thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of persons have been killed in the course of illegal mining;

-j-The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh.

(d) if so, what is the total number of deaths which occurred on this account during the last two years; and

(e) whether any enquiry has been ordered to probe into the illegal mining, and if so, what are the findings of the enquiry and the action taken against illegal mining operators?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND
MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES

(SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) There is no organised illegal coal mining in the leasehold areas of the coal companies. However, as the coal in the country is vast, certain persons at times violate the provisions of law and indulge in illegal extraction of coal, sporadically and stealthily and the nature of the activities is such that no authentic reports about accidents, if any, in such operations will be forthcoming.

The Coal Mines Nationalisation Acts were amended in 1976 making illegal coal mining a cognizable offence, punishable with imprisonment extending upto 3 years and fine extending upto Rs. 20,000/-. The provisions of these amendments have already been upheld by the Supreme Court in 1980.

The State Governments have been asked to take both punitive and preventive action against the offenders in terms of the Nationalisation Acts read with provisions of the Indian Penal Code. The State Governments in turn had already issued instructions to the District Authorities. The Coal Companies have been directed to report the cases of illegal extraction of coal and when detected by them to the law enforcing authorities. In the States, besides, the coal companies in conjunction with the State Governments' law enforcing authorities in the States conduct regular raids to apprehend offenders. Regular and surprise checks are also conducted by the coal companies.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: This statement has oversimplified a very