

(6) Thirty-fifth Report on action taken on 167th Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) regarding Utilisation of Locomotives.

(7) Thirty-sixth Report on action taken on 178th Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) regarding incorrect Valuation of Unquoted Equity Shares.

(8) Thirty-seventh Report on action taken on 230th Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) regarding Customs Receipts—Duty-Exemption Entitlement Scheme.

(9) Thirty-eighth Report on action taken on 217th Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) regarding Cost of Collection.

(10) Thirty-ninth Report on action taken on 208th Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) regarding Union Excise Duties—Cosmetics and Suppression of Production.

REPORTS OF THE STUDY TOURS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

SHRI ROSHAN LAL (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Study Tours of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:—

(i) Report of the Study Tour of Study Group I of the Committee on its visit to Bombay-Puna-Bombay-Nagpur and Hyderabad during December, 1985 and January, 1986.

(ii) Report of the Study Tour of Study Group II of the Committee on its visit to Bombay-Calcutta-Ranchi and Patna during December, 1985 and January, 1986

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

SHRI K. GOPALAN (Kerala): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Second Report of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit

REFERENCE TO THE GHASTLY CAUSED BY TRIPLE-ANTIGEN AND ORAL POLIOMYELITIS VACCINA- TIONS

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE (Nominated): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we express deep concern regarding the death of four infants caused by triple-antigen vaccine on April 21, 1986. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India through you, Sir, to the "Ghastly Tragedy" caused by triple-antigen and oral poliomyelitis vaccination. The death of four infants at the Government-run Cama and Albless Hospital in Bombay within an hour of getting a dose of triple-antigen vaccination and oral poliomyelitis vaccination is shocking beyond words. Three other children also had been seriously ill about the same time due to this vaccination but fortunately they could survive. Still they are under treatment as they have not completely recovered from the toxic effect of the drug. The triple-antigen was purchased from the Haffkine Biopharmaceutical Corporation Limited on April 7 this year.

Sir, this is a serious matter and needs immediate investigation. The Superintendent of the Hospital has submitted a statement mentioning therein that acute allergy to triple-antigen might be the cause of this disaster. But this theory seems far fetched. Even if this be true, why did not the doctors perform any testing or any experiment on the children to see whether the drug exhibits any allergic action or the children have the tolerance to this toxic drug? Henceforth, prior to such vaccination for immunisation the doctors must ensure that the drug will not produce any adverse effect. Sir, it is hardly credible that all of the seven children who were taken to the hospital for immunisation on Monday morning had been allergic to the same vaccine as stated by the Superintendent of the Hospital. However, the doctors there suspect that the drug might be sub-standard or spurious or might be contaminated or adulterated with some harmful and toxic chemicals which have caused this effect. Now the triple-antigen vaccine has been

sent for analysis. This should have been done earlier and the trace impurity in the drug must be declared as done in other countries. Sir, the purity of the drug is in question.

The Government is therefore requested to appoint immediately an expert committee to probe into the causes of this catastrophe. Similar tragic cases with other drugs have been reported in the recent past. These were caused by adulterated glycerol which took away the lives of 40 persons. Quality control of the drugs is a serious matter and this should be given proper attention. In the case of toxic drugs for public consumption, very careful testing should be done in the laboratories and also the allergic action should be examined and the trace impurities which can be readily detected by gas liquid chromatography technique should be categorically mentioned.

Sir, the Drug Controllers and the drug licensing authorities in every State must be alert and must not allow sub-standard and spurious drugs to come into the market for public consumption. Also they must take care of the toxic drugs and harmful drugs so that they may not cause such catastrophes in future. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhandare will briefly associate himself.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me to associate myself with this very important special mention. As has been aptly said by honourable Mrs. Chatterjee, it is a tragedy which is shocking beyond words. It is clear, Sir, that the drug which was administered to these infants was not a poliomyelitis vaccine but truly a poison. The parents of these children must have taken them and got them vaccinated to ensure that these babies have a protected healthy life free from any attack of polio and other infectious diseases. What is more tragic is that this vaccine was supplied by the renowned Haffkine Institute. It is a very serious matter and immediately an enquiry at the highest level should be instituted as pro-

mised this morning by the Health Minister Till then, from this batch no vaccine should be supplied.

We have in India 15 million babies being born every year so much so that we say that we produce an Australia every year. We require 45 million doses for immunising the babies from serious infections. There is an ambitious mass immunisation programme which is covered in the Seventh Five-Year Plan. The production in India is only 1 million doses. Forty-four million doses will be the shortage. I take this opportunity of requesting the Government to devise immediate steps for increasing the production of vaccine so that the mass immunisation programme is effective. There is no justification in our country not to immunise even a single baby because that is the least that we owe to infants in our country.

There is another aspect which has been referred to by Mrs. Chatterjee. That is, about 13 persons died due to administration of glycerol. This clearly shows that there is rampant use of spurious and fake drugs in our country despite repeated protests and demands by the Members of this House and also by consumer protection agencies outside. Consumer protection is a vital and essential area. Though in the morning there was said something about quality control, I would request the Government to take deterrent steps because what prevents repetition of such occurrence is that those who are guilty of such adulteration and sell all such spurious and sub-standard medicines are promptly brought to book and deterrent punishment is awarded to them. In this connection they may also consider strengthening of the laws for consumer protection.

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir for giving me an opportunity to raise this.

Before coming to the mention, I would like to utilise this opportunity to associate myself with the hon. Members who have taken up this issue. And I request the media to associate themselves so that proper propaganda can be given through the media in order to demand withdrawal of spurious drugs and as a matter people at large will be warned and made conscious so that tragedies of these types will not occur in future.

[Shri M. A. Baby]

Sir, the shocking and painful death of four kids in the Government run Cams and Albless Hospital in Bombay the other day brings to our attention the callous manner in which things are done in some of our hospitals. They died within an hour of being given the drug due to defective administration of the spurious triple antigen vaccine. I request the Government to constitute a high level enquiry, not a departmental enquiry, so that such incidents can be prevented in future. Though this is a State subject, considering the frequent occurrences of similar incidents in different parts of our country, this House must express its concern over this and demand effective measures to see that similar incidents do not occur in future.

The news that a five-member committee has been constituted by the Maharashtra Government . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must be very brief. I am only giving you a sort of concession.

SHRI M. A. BABY....does not give much hope. There is no guarantee that this will be prevented in future because we are aware that in the past so many such committees have been constituted and reports have been submitted, but nothing concrete has been done to prevent such incidents. So many incidents occur again and again. Recently in a hospital in Kerala a patient died because he was given blood belonging to another group. So, this is not an isolated incident.

Sir, apart from doing the needful to find out the real reasons of the tragedy in the Bombay hospital the other day. I hope the Government will take sufficient steps to put an end to the unfortunate and unhealthy happening in hospitals in general. It is a matter of agony and shame that the drugs given to children as preventive drugs to immunise them against attack of dangerous diseases become poisonous, which leaves their parents in total darkness and in terrible and irreparable frustration.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Your time is over.

SHRI M. A. BABY: There should be sufficient steps to prevent this. Thank you very much.

REFERENCE TO THE SPURT IN DACOITIES IN BANKS.

[Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : श्रीमान्, पिछले कुछ महीनों में बैंकों पर डकैतियों की बाढ़ सी आ गई है। न सिर्फ पंजाब में बल्कि दिल्ली जैसी राजधानी में बम्बई और कलकत्ता हर जगह बैंकों की डकैतियां हो रही हैं। ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार का बैंक की संपत्ति और कर्मचारियों की रक्षा का विषय नहीं है। सरकार बार बार आश्वासन देती आ रही है कि हम इसके लिए कुछ करेंगे। लेकिन ये घटनाएँ दिनों दिन बढ़ती जा रही हैं।

श्रीमान्, इसी साल बैंक इन्फ्लाइज एसोसियेशन ने 21 मार्च 1986 को वित्त मंत्री को एक पत्र लिखा था जिसमें उन्होंने मांग की थी कि इस संबंध में आवश्यक कार्यवाही की जाए। पहली बात तो यह है कि आम्बर्ड गार्ड्स विद लेटेस्ट वेपंस से इक्विप किए जाएं और उनको बैंकों में रखा जाए। वैसे आम्बर्ड गार्ड्स एस्काट्स सभी लोगों को दिए जाएं। लेकिन जो बैंक की संपत्ति होती है उसका तो इश्योरेंस होता है, लेकिन जो कर्मचारी लोग हैं जो ऐसी घटनाओं में मारे जाते हैं या घायल होते हैं, उनका कोई इश्योरेंस नहीं होता। इसलिए मैं सरकार से उम्मीद करूंगा कि उनका ग्रुप इश्योरेंस किया जाए ताकि उनके बाल-बच्चों के लिये सुरक्षा मिल सके और जो कर्मचारी घायल हो जाएं या मारे जायें उनके परिवार वालों को नौकरियां बैंकों में दी जाएं। इसलिए मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ कि इस संबंध में जल्द में जल्द कार्यवाही की जाए। सरकारी संपत्ति की जो इस तरह से लूटपाट हो रही है उसको रोकने के लिए अगर सरकार नाम की कोई चीज है तो उसके लिए वह प्रयास करे जिसका नतीजा जल्द सामने आए।