

Production of drugs essential for serious diseases

*264. SHRI ROSHAN LAL:f
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, drugs which are banned in the USA are being sold in India without any check,

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give priority to the production of those drugs which are essential for serious diseases; and . . .

(c) what are the findings of the seminar organised by the Delhi Science Forum in November, 1981 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) No, Sir. Out of 8 drugs, known to have been banned in the USA, only two drugs namely Phenformin and Hormonal pregnancy testing preparations are being allowed to be marketed in* India, in consultation with expert organisations with suitable precautions and contraindications.

(b) It is Government's policy to give priority to the production of essential drugs.

(c) The Seminar was not organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and no report of their deliberations is available with the Ministry.

श्री रोशन लाल : जनाब चेरमैन साहब, मिनिस्टर मौसूफ ने यह बात तसलीम की कि एक एक्सपर्ट कमेटी यहां बनाई गई थी। मैं जनाब से पूछना चाहता हूं कि हुकूमत के इल्म में यह बात है कि कुछ तकनीकी मशावरती बोर्ड ने, जो कमेटी आपने मुकरर की थी, उन्होंने ऐसी दवाएं

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Roshan Lal.

जो मुजिरे-सेहत करार दी गई हैं और उनको ममनुनकरार दिया गया था और वह आज बाजार में बिक रही हैं, क्या आपकी नालेज में है ?

दूसरे, कुछ ऐसी दवाएं हैं जिनके ऊपर लेवल लिखे हुए हैं और लेवल पर लिखा हुआ है कि वह मुजिर है सेहत के लिए, वह भा बाजार में बिक रही हैं, क्या यह हुकूमत के नालेज में है !

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the main question is with reference to the drugs which are banned in America and used in this country, but the supplementary the hon. Member is asking has nothing to do with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But what he wants to say is that drug control is not functioning as it should be. That is the main purpose. (Interruptions) That is only an example.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: It is not absolutely correct because the hon. Member's supplementary is with reference to the drugs which are mis-branded and are spurious drugs. He is asking that supplementary which has nothing to do with the drugs which are branded.

MR CHAIRMAN: You are right.

श्री रोशन लाल : मेरा क्वेश्चन यह है कि जिन दवाओं को बंद किया गया है वे हिन्दुस्तान में आकर बिक रही हैं, मेरा ताल्लुक उनसे है ... (बधवधान)

श्री सभापति : दो ही तो हैं, उनके नाम बता दिये। हमारी कमेटी ने उनको अप्रूव कर दिया।

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Mr. Minister, the Government appointed a Drug's Consultative Committee which recommended the withdrawal of 23 drugs. Out of these 23 drugs, the Drugs Controller of India has withdrawn only 17 formulations. I think more drugs should have been covered, especially in view of the Prime Minister's speech at the World Health Organisation that the third

world countries are being used as guinea-pigs by the multi-national corporations. Secondly, the production of basic drugs by the multi-nationals is worth Rs. 226 crores, while the formulations run to the astronomical figure of Rs. 1,150 crores. These formulations are repetitions and by these repetitions they try to avoid the commercial names which have been banned in the United States, but they can be marketed in India under new commercial names.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the member-countries of the World Health Organisation inform the Organisation as to the drugs they have banned in their respective countries and in turn the World Health Organisation informs the member-countries that these are the specific drugs banned in various countries. According to that, 18 drugs have been banned in various countries and this information has been sent by the WHO to all countries, including India. Out of these 18 drugs, 7 have already been withdrawn from being marketed in India, 6 have not been approved at all for marketing and the remaining 5 have been allowed to be marketed in this country in consultation with the expert medical people and the medical organisations on whose advice the Government takes a decision.

SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: I think the medical profession of India has got a better responsibility to check and expose the dangerous activities of the multi-national drugs companies. I want to know from the Minister how many cases have been exposed so far in so far as the activities of the multi-national corporations are concerned. I want to know how much co-ordination the Indian Medical Association proposes to have in this regard.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the question has no relevance to the main question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I think so. Q. No. 265. Mr. Nanda.

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Sir, he has not replied to the question I had posed; and these things pose a health hazard to the health and well-being of the nation. The Prime Minister herself has made a statement in an international organisation. I do not know why he wants to shirk replying to the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Didn't you hear that out of 18 drugs, some are not allowed to commence production, 7 have been withdrawn?

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Out of the 23 drugs recommended by the Drugs Committee, only 17 have been banned by the Drugs Controller and the Minister has not given a specific reply to my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think I have passed on to Q. No. 265. Mr. Nanda.

Election to the Municipal Corporations

*265. SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD
NANDA :f

SHRI ARVIND GANESH
KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Municipal Corporations in the country which have elected bodies at present; and

(b) the number of Municipal Corporations in the country which have no elected bodies at present and the reasons for not conducting elections for them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY): (a) and (b) According to the information available in this Ministry, there are at present 62

If the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Narasingha Prasad Nanda.