

हो रही है कि उत्तर प्रदेश का [परिषद समाप्त हो जायगा । ग्राम आदम इससे वस्तु हो रहा है ...

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I thought the last question had been asked.

श्री सभापति : क्वेश्चन 82 हो गया है ।

श्री कलराज मिश्र : इसमें जो इन्होंने उत्तर दिया है उसी से संबंधित सवाल है ।

श्री सभापति : मगर अब कैसे कीजियेगा । अब आप सवाल नहीं पूछ सकते हैं । मैं क्वेश्चन 82 पर पहुँच गया हूँ ।

*82. [The Questioner (Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy) was absent. For answer vide col. 36 infra.]

*83. [The Questioners (Shri Indradeep Sinha and Shri Yogendra Sharma) were absent. For answer vide cols 36 and 37 infra.]

Shortage of Life-Saving Drugs

*84. SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN:
SHRIMATI MARGARET
ALVA:†

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an acute shortage of life saving drugs in the country in the recent past;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the production of life saving drugs has fallen considerably during the current year; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Margaret Alva.

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to meet the requirements of such drugs during the current year and the measures proposed to be taken to meet the long-term demand?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Shortage of some specific brands of essential and life-saving formulations have been reported periodically from different areas. In several of these cases, however, a number of equivalent brands are reportedly available;

(b) There has been some shortfall in the production of certain essential bulk drugs, during the current year (April—September 1980) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. There are a number of reasons for shortfall in the indigenous production of such drugs, namely (i) power cuts, (ii) labour unrest, (iii) transport problems, (iv) equipment breakdown in certain units, (v) limited or non-availability of some raw materials, and (vi) capacity constraints; and

(c) Government monitors the production of essential bulk drugs as well as the availability of essential and life saving formulations. In specific cases of constraints brought to its notice. Government has taken remedial measures. When packing materials became scarce, Government reduced customs duty on the import of Aluminium Foil and allowed its liberal imports by including it under OGL. Government has arranged needed imports of canalised bulk drugs to supplement indigenous production and have announced a liberal policy on the distribution of canalised drugs. Govt. has decided the procedure for adjustment of prices of bulk drugs and formulations and has so far revised the prices of some important bulk drugs to ensure that production does not

become uneconomic. Applications for industrial licences|registration letters are cleared on an expeditious basis.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I would like to point out that because of labour trouble at the factory at Pimpri and in other places there has been a fear that there would be acute shortage of life-saving drugs in the country in the coming year. We would like, therefore, the Minister to tell us what really is the position—whether any concrete steps have been taken to see that this does not happen and whether there is any proposal to see that private sector firms who can help out at this crucial time are given short-term licences to manufacture the necessary drugs in the country and help us.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, as has been pointed out in the main body of the answer, the shortages are on account of power, cuts, labour unrest, transport problems, equipment break-down in certain units, limitation on account of the non-availability of raw materials, etc. Therefore, in some . . .

श्री पी. सी. सेठी : क्या बाकी रहा ?

श्री सतीशराम केशरी : बाकी रहा मोरी ।

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, we are trying our best to resolve these problems, but in some of the important factories there are labour problems. For example, in the Parke Davis Company, there is the labour problems; then there is the labour problem in one or two other companies which the hon. Member mentioned. Sir, the overall position is that there is the labour problem in Pfizer, there is the labour problem in Ciba. We are contacting the State Governments and requesting them to see that the labour problems are resolved as early as possible.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, this is no answer to my question. I myself mentioned that there is the

labour problem and that is why shortages are expected in the coming year. Now he stands up and says that there is the labour problem in certain companies. I have myself given the information. My question is: What steps are they taking to meet the situation? He says that they have instructed the State Governments to resolve the labour trouble. That is no answer. I should like to know what he and his Ministry are doing to see that the essential drugs required by the common people in this country are made available. After all, the lives of the people are not going to wait till you have sorted out the labour problems in the country. I would like to know what interim measures his Ministry is taking to see that these drugs are made available in spite of the labour problems and in spite of some of the factories having been closed down.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, we have opened a Department particularly to look after the shortages. Whenever we receive reports of shortages from any part of the country, and if the shortage is of a particular brand name and if there is an alternate source of the generic medicine of that particular brand name available, we ask the other companies to rush the medicine to that area. Besides that, wherever there are shortages, we are trying to import drugs and that is why our import bill has also gone up. But, in any case, the shortage in the basic drugs as well as in the formulations is there. As far as the new licences about which the hon. Member asked are concerned, we are . . .

SHRI PILOO MODY: Temporary licences to the existing firms, not new licences.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: . . . trying to give new licences to the companies and their number is quite sufficient.

MR CHAIRMAN: Now, your second question. (*Interruptions*) I have got all the names, but yours will never reach.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware that where the small units, i.e. the units in the small-scale sector, were manufacturing the essential drugs, the IDPL over the last year or so has brought pressure to see that the raw materials which had been guaranteed to them under licences for import are stopped. This is due to the interference of the IDPL because the IDPL does not want any competition from the private sector, for they fear that their sales might come down because of that. The IDPL is unable to keep its commitment and yet on account of the pressure from the Chairman, IDPL, a number of licences to import the essential raw materials for the small-scale sector have been withheld or denied to the small-scale sector creating problems for them: even when they had no labour problems, they had to close down because of the non-availability of the raw materials which had been guaranteed to them. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware of this fact; and, if, so, whether he would personally look into this matter to see that at least the small units where there is no labour trouble are allowed to go ahead with the manufacture of these drugs and they are also allowed normal supplies of the raw materials from abroad which have been guaranteed to them.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, as far as the import of the raw material is concerned in the canalised items, it is the Chemical and Pharmaceutical Corporation, a subsidiary of the STC, which does it, and the IDPL cannot step in and stop it. However, if the hon. Member has mentioned it, I would certainly look into the matter. And as far as the supply from the IDPL is concerned, Sir, the IDPL does not want the private sector or any other sector to go now. As a matter of fact, as far as formulations are concerned, the total public sector's share is only 6 per cent; 78 per cent is foreign sector and 16 per cent other

Indian organised sector. These figures indicate that the IDPL is not hampering; rather it is trying to help in the production of medicines wherever they are essentially needed.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I will give a petition from these people regarding the difficulties they are facing.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: The hon. Member is most welcome to come to my chamber.

DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU: Is the hon. Minister aware that medicine either meant as an anesthetic and medicinal oxygen are in very short supply with the result that operations are postponed every now and then? Will he see that the life-saving medicines like medicinal oxygen as well as other are made available to the hospitals so that operations at least are not postponed and people's agony is not aggravated?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, I have not received any complaint of this type.

DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU: Sir, I am surprised that the hon. Minister does not receive the clippings from the newspapers of Delhi, which have said that operations in the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Safdarjung Hospital were postponed due to lack of oxygen?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you seen those?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, as I have said, we have been receiving complaints of the various shortages from other parts of the country. These are received through the Drug Controllers as well as the Zonal Directorate offices, and wherever we have received such complaints, the Ministry has tried to restore the situation by asking the original manufacturers to rush the supplies. However, I have not come across the clippings that the hon. Member has said. He has more time to read them. I would certainly go into those complaints and see what best can be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pande.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have got your name.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDE: It is most . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDE: Sir, I will be very brief. You know I will be brief.

It is most surprising that the Minister has not seen even the "Times of India" report that many drugs are in short supply in many of the hospitals. Even the medicines for the blood-pressure are in short supply—it has been published in all the papers—here in Delhi and other parts of the country. I want to know whether the Minister has taken any steps to find out from the various hospitals of Delhi what drugs are essentially required for the purpose of operation, for high blood-pressure and for the purpose of other things and will try to supply all those medicines so that the lives of the patients may be saved?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I have admitted that short supplies have been complained of from many parts of the country including Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and other parts of the country.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Sir, our name will remain only on paper. We will not get any chance.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I welcome the suggestion of the hon. Member. As far as the Delhi hospitals are concerned, we should try to get the information first-hand and try to look into the shortages and see that they are corrected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mathur.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: My question has been covered by the earlier supplementary. (Interruptions)

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: If a supplementary arises from his answer, how are we to ask that supplementary? We have to catch your eye.

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : मैं बराबर हाथ उठा रहा हूँ, आप का ध्यान नहीं जाता ।

श्री सभापति : मिस्टर माथुर ने—हाथ बहुत देर से उठाया हुआ था... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: I do not want to ask any supplementary because my question has been covered by Mrs. Alva's second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very well. Now, Mr. Yadav and then Mr. Reddy.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : सभापति जी . . .

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: Sir, he did not raise his hand at all.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: I raised my hand. To be fair, I raised my hand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He raised his hand.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : सभापति जी, दवाइयाँ पैदा करने वाले लोग देश के पूजीपति हैं चाहे वे स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री के रूप में पैदा करते हों या बड़ी स्केल में । ऐसा देखा जाता है कि दवा कम पैदा इस लिए वह करना चाहते हैं कि कोई न कोई बहाना बना कर स्केयर्स होने पर उस की कीमत बढ़ेगी और ब्लेक से उन्हें अधिक पैसा मिलेगा । ऐसे लोग हमारे पीलू मोदी के दोस्त हैं जिन की ये बराबर रक्षा करते हैं । सभापति जी, मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ...

श्री पीलू मोदी : सब काले आदमी मेरे दोस्त हैं ।

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ . (Interruptions)

You are friends of business people. That is why...

SHRI PILOO MODY: You use their money. I am only their friend.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मैं दो तीन बुनियादी बातें सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ। क्या सरकार ने यह आइडेन्टीफाई करने की कोशिश की है कि कितनी ऐसी स्केयर्स लाइफ सेविंग ड्रम्स हैं जो प्राइवेट सेक्टर में पैदा होती हैं? अगर सरकार ने लाइफ सेविंग स्केयर्स ड्रम्स जो इस देश में बहुत ही कम पैदा होती हैं को आइडेन्टीफाई किया है तो क्या उन उद्योग-धन्धों का राष्ट्रीयकरण करने वा सोचती है, अपने हाथ में लेना चाहती है? तीसरे क्या सरकार स्केयर्स लाइफ सेविंग ड्रम्स का—चाहे वह प्राइवेट सेक्टर में प्रोड्यूस हो, चाहे इम्पोर्ट कर के बाहर से आती हों—डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन अपने हाथ में लेगी?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him be answered first. Then Mr. Reddy and then Mr. Patel. There will be enough time for you.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: I don't know.

श्री पी० तं० सेठी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, जहाँ तक दवाइयों की कीमतों का सवाल है दवाइयों की कीमते ड्रग प्राइस कन्ट्रोल आर्डर के तहत फिक्सड हैं। इस के बावजूद भी कभी कभी यह शिकायतें आती हैं कि पर्टीकुलर ब्रान्ड्स की दवाई बाजार में ब्लैक में विकती है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के जो ड्रग कन्ट्रोलर्स हैं उन का फर्ज है कि वह इस प्रकार की कम्प्लेंट्स को देखे। मगर जहाँ तक उत्पादन का सवाल है महज इस वजह से दवाइयों की कीमत वह बढ़ाना चाहते हैं इसलिये उत्पादन में कमी न हो इस बात को

हम बराबर मोनीटर करते रहते हैं। पिछले 78-79 और 79-80 के जो आंकड़े हमारे पास हैं उस से प्रकट होता है कि उत्पादन क्षमता में कोई कमी नहीं आयी है हालांकि इस प्रकार के कारणों से जो मैंने उल्लेख किये हैं उत्पादन में कमी हुई है।

जहाँ तक सभापति महोदय, लाइफ सेविंग ड्रम्स के उत्पादन का सवाल है एच. ए. एल. और आई. डी. पी. एल. जो पब्लिक सेक्टर यूनिट्स हैं उन में लाइफ सेविंग ड्रम्स के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने की कोशिश करते जा रहे हैं। प्राइवेट सेक्टर वाली कम्पनीज को भी यह कहा गया है कि बेसिक ड्रम्स के एक्सपेंशन का सवाल होगा तो बेसिक ड्रम्स वह भी बनायें और उस का 50 परसेंट प्राइवेट मैन्यूफैक्चरर्स को दें। इस प्रकार लाइफ सेविंग ड्रम्स को बढ़ाने की कोशिश की जा रही है। यह बात सही है कि लाइफ सेविंग ड्रम्स में कुछ कमी नोटिस की गयी है लेकिन कई बार जो फारमूलेशन में कमी आती है वह दूसरे में पूरी हो जाती है। उदाहरण के तौर पर नावेल्जीन एक ब्रैंड नेम है लेकिन उस को हटा दिया गया है। लेकिन 1958 के ड्रम्स रजिस्ट्रेशन ऐक्ट के अनुसार उन को एनलर्जिन लिखना होता है। तो शार्टेज तो है लेकिन उस का दूसरा जो उत्पादन है एनलर्जिन वह उपलब्ध है। इसी प्रकार से दूसरी कई दवाइयां हैं जिन की कमी महसूस की जा रही है लेकिन उन के जो आल्टरनेटिव इक्विवैलेंट्स हैं वे उपलब्ध हैं। ऐंटा माइसिटील कैप्सूल है उन का आल्टरनेटिव पैराक्सीन कैप्सूल उपलब्ध है। एक इंजेक्शन है इसी प्रकार उस का सब्स्टीट्यूट रैनबाक्सी का मैक्लिप्स का इंजेक्शन उपलब्ध है। इसी प्रकार से कई ब्रैंड नेम्स की शार्टेज है लेकिन उस के

जो दूसरे इक्वीवैलेंट्स हैं वे उपलब्ध हैं। सरकार का ऐसा कोई इरादा नहीं है कि इन कंपनियों का वह राष्ट्रीयकरण कर ले। उस के बजाय बेहतर होगा कि वह पब्लिक सेक्टर में उत्पादन बढ़ाये बजाय इस के कि पुरानी कंपनियों को लेने में सरकार और पैसा सर्फ करे।

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रिड्डी : माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में यह कहा था कि जगह जगह से कंप्लेंट्स आ रही है कि ड्रग्स की कमी है और मंत्री जी ने यह भी कहा था कि हम उन को बाहर से मंगाने की कोशिश करेंगे ताकि कमी न हो। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो शार्टेज है लाइफ सेंविंग ड्रग्स की वह मौजूदा समय में मुल्क में कितनी शार्टेज है और इस को सीटर करने के लिये कितना समय लगेगा और बाहर के किन किन मुमालिक से इन ड्रग्स को मंगाने की आप की योजना है इस के बारे में आप बतायें।

श्री पी० सी० सेठी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, सब लाइफ सेंविंग ड्रग्स की शार्टेज नहीं है। उदाहरण के तौर पर स्ट्रैप्टोमाइसीन की 20-21 परसेंट की कमी है लेकिन क्लोरामरिकल पाउडर में 25 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि है। सल्फा माइसिन और सल्फा ड्रग्स की 28 प्रतिशत की कमी है लेकिन सल्फामेटीसिन में 36 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि है। इसी प्रकार से विटामिन्स में भी कुछ कमी है लेकिन कुछ में वृद्धि भी है। तो कुल मिला कर माननीय सभापति महोदय जो शार्टेज है उस के जो इक्वीवैलेंट फार्मूलेशनस हैं उन के द्वारा और अधिक उत्पादन के द्वारा अधिक उत्पादन करने की कोशिश के द्वारा और विदेशों से आयात कर के उन को पूरा किया जा रहा है। विदेशों से जो आयात की जा रही है उन में स्ट्रैप्टोमाइसिन क्लोरामेरिकल पाउडर यू एस एस

आर से मंगाया जा रहा है, रूमानिया से स्ट्रैप्टोमाइसिन और सल्फा ड्रग्स मंगायी जा रही है, इटली से एंफेसिन और इन्फोमाइसिन आ रही है, अल्जिरिया से टैट्रासाइक्लिन आ रही है, बुल्गारिया से टैट्रासाइक्लीन आ रही है, स्पेन और पुर्तगाल से ऐफीमसिन आ रही है, फ्रांस से डेप्चुन आ रही है और यू के से विटामिन्स बी आ रही है। इसी प्रकार से जो कमी है उस को आयात कर के पूरा किया जा रहा है।

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: While replying to the first question of Mrs. Alva the honourable Minister said that there was difficulty on different fronts—labour, electricity, coal, power generation, this, that—as if these are all departments of some foreign Governments. Does the Minister take any steps to coordinate the efforts of the different Ministries in order to produce these life-saving drugs and give topmost priority to them? Has he taken any steps or does he propose taking any steps in that direction? Then, is it not true that certain multinational companies are not interested in producing these life-saving drugs in the quantity which the country requires and they are always interested in seeing that the prices of those drugs always remain higher? Will the Government reconsider its policy on these multinationals and see that our Indian public sector and private sector are given priority for producing more and in greater quantity, and then also force these multinationals to produce life-savings drugs in a quantity required by the country?

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SHRI P. C. SETHI: As regards the feeling of the hon. Member that we do not try to coordinate the various causes of shortages . . .

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL: That was the reply.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: I have given the various reasons, power cut for instance. Wherever there is power cut, we have written to the State

Government to restore the power cut of the drug manufacturers. If there is strike even in a private sector unit like—Parke Davis, I have written to the Maharashtra Chief Minister to see that the labour unrest is done away with. There is shortage of water for our IDPL unit in Hyderabad and I have written to the Chief Minister to see that the water supply is restored to the factory. We are trying our best to see through the State Governments that the shortage is removed. Whenever shortage is there, we coordinate and see that the production is augmented.

As far as multi-nationals are concerned, in terms of the Hathi Committee report, multi-national activity has been reduced because their equity has been brought down to 40 per cent from 60 per cent and 75 per cent. There are only three or four companies where this has not been brought down. Efforts are on to see that their equity is also brought down to 40 per cent.

As far as life-saving drugs are concerned, our effort is to strengthen the arm of the public sector. Even when they are produced by multi-nationals we are trying to see that the capacity for which they are licensed is adhered to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, please remember that "ता तिरपाक अज इराक आबुर्दा शबद मार गुजीदा मुर्दा शबद" by the time the anti-dote comes from Iraq, the person bitten by the snake dies.

Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Clearance of Hydro-Electric Projects in Karnataka

*82. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the answer to

Starred Question 20 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th June, 1980 and state:

(a) whether the Ghataprabha and Kabini hydro-electric projects in Karnataka have since been cleared by the Central Government; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor and by when these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b) The Ghataprabha Hydel Project (2×16 HW) has been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority and recommended to the Planning Commission for investment approval. Regarding Kabini Hydro-electric Project, replies to the comments of Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission are still awaited from State authorities.

The Techno-economic clearance of this scheme will be considered after the clarifications have been received from the State authorities.

Foreign participation in oil exploration

*83. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have changed its policy regarding foreign participation in the oil exploration;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to accelerate the search for oil Government has invited offers from suitably qualified foreign parties to participate in the exploration efforts of the country.

(b) Pre-qualifying bids were invited for this purpose in August 1980, against which 67 parties indicated