

good. But, you see, we can also take advantage of the know-how available from abroad-

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Shejwal-kar. Last question.

श्री ना० कु० शेजवलकर : एक तरफ आप मोनोपोलिस्ट्स को देना नहीं चाहते, दूसरी तरफ पब्लिक सेक्टर में भी यह काम देना नहीं चाहते और इस कारण बाहर तमाम रुपया फारेन एक्सचेंज के रूप में भेजते हैं इम्पोर्ट करने के कारण तो क्या आप अपनी इस पोलिसी को रिवाइज करने को तैयार हैं जो यहां ज्यादा इन्वेस्ट कर सकते हैं उनको एलाउ करें नेशन के इन्टरेस्ट में ताकि वे ज्यादा तादाद में कारखाने खोल सकें और साल में 160 करोड़ 200 करोड़ जो बाहर भेजना पड़ता है वह न भेजना पड़े।

श्री डी० के० बरुआ : माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा है कि हम फटिलाइजर फैक्टरी किसी को बनाने नहीं देते, पब्लिक सेक्टर में नहीं बनाते हैं, प्राइवेट सेक्टर को भी नहीं देते, यह बात सही नहीं है। हम सोच विचार कर करना चाहते हैं। आप जानते हैं कि फटिलाइजर फैक्टरी पब्लिक सेक्टर में भी हैं और प्राइवेट सेक्टर में भी हैं। अभी तक सरकार इसी पोलिसी पर चल रही है और कोई नई पोलिसी बनाने के बारे में अभी हम सोच नहीं रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, next question.

COST OF BASIC DRUGS

409. SHRI KOTA

PUNNATAHr

SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MU-

SAFIR: SHRI J. S. TILAK: SHRI

CHANDRA SHEKHAR : DR. 2. A. AHMAD

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the

steps taken by Government to reduce the cost of basic drugs manufactured in the country 7 v

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BO ROOAH): Reduction in cost of production of basic drugs can be secured by fuller utilisation of installed capacities by research and development to reduce process costs and by adoption of the most advantageous technology available in the new projects. Government are implementing measures to allow fuller utilisation of capacities wherever considered feasible. Licensing applications involving foreign technologies are scrutinised by technical experts to ensure induction of the most suitable technology available to us. Government have also been encouraging production units in the country to take up research and development activities as part of their manufacturing programme.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH : Is it not a fact that the Government has failed in its efforts to reduce the cost of basic drugs ? Also, is it not a fact that these drugs are not easily available at the rates fixed by the Government to the common man ?

SHRr D. K. BOROOAH : I do not agree that the Government has totally failed to stop the spiral of prices of these drugs. I find, Sir, that as against the general cost of living index of 230 during the past year, the price index in respect of Drugs is only of the order of 148.7 on 24-2-73.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH : What about my second question ? Is it not a fact that drugs are not easily available at the rates fixed by the Government to the common man ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Sir, certainly in this country with the advance in consumption there may be some difficulty. But if the hon. Member likes to bring to our notice any specific case, certainly we shall do something about it.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: My second question. Is it not a fact that there is pilferage of these drugs in Government hospitals which are meant for the poor people ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: That is a matter which is under the Ministry of

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kota Pun-naiah.

Health. I suppose it will be good if the hon. Member refers this question to the Health Minister.

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मिलावट के बारे में एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ कि मरने के लिए जहर की जरूरत हो तो वह भी निखालिस नहीं मिलता है। अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस पर एक शेर अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ:—

‘तसल्ली दे गये उनको, जिन्हें दुश्वार जीना था
गरज ये थी कि मरना भी उन्हें दुश्वार हो जाए’

मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि दवाइयों में मिलावट इस कदर ज्यादा हो गई है। और चीजों में भी है मगर दवाइयों के मुतालिक इतनी ज्यादा है कि जैसा मैंने जिक्र किया जहर भी कोई दुखी होकर पीकर खुदकशी करना चाहे तो खालिस नहीं मिलता। तो इसके मुतालिक भी सरकार कोई इंतजाम करे।

श्री डी० के० बरुआ : अडल्ट्रेशन के बारे में जो माननीय मंत्री साहबान ने बताया—

श्री ए० पी० जैन : अडल्ट्रेशन होगा तो आदमी जल्दी मरेगा नहीं।

श्री डी० के० बरुआ : यह भी सही है, जहर ठीक निकला तो जल्दी मर जाएगा, अडल्ट्रेशन होगा तो बचने की उम्मीद रह जाती है। मंत्री साहबान ने जो पूछा, इसके बारे में मैं कोई प्रबन्ध जरूर करूंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is advocating adulteration of drugs, so that people may not die! Mr. Tilak.

SHRI J. S. TILAK: Sir, the shortage is because of the inadequate production of basic drugs. It is also due to the bad distribution. How is the Government going to distribute these properly all over the country?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: For all I know, both may be the reasons for this complaint made by the hon. Member. There is certainly inadequacy and there is certainly fault in production distribution.

It will be my endeavour that both are set right as early as possible. MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Krishan Kant.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: The hon. Minister has given three points in his reply. He has propounded, probably at the instance of his officials, what may be a very dangerous theory that as compared to the general cost of living index, in the case of drugs it is 143.7. The question is about the profitability of the drug industry. Is it not a fact that many of the drugs sold in the market for diabetes and blood pressure are having a profit of 750 to 1000 per cent? How does the Minister justify this? The other point is that he mentioned about the utilization of capacity. Is it not a fact that even in the Rishikesh plant, only 40% of the capacity is being utilised? The Russians had told us when they set up the plant that full production will be reached within a period of 3 years. Five years have already passed. What has been done about it and have the Russians been asked about it?

The last point is about the new technology. The Minister gave a nice covering to his speech. Though the production capacity is full in the Hyderabad plant, the cost of production cannot be reduced because of the out-dated technology. May I know from the hon. Minister what is he going to do about the reduction of prices? Will he appoint an Expert Committee not only of those experts sitting in Government, but laymen, Members of Parliament and others also who can look into all these things and bring forward a scheme?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: I quite agree with the hon. Member that the public sector company at Rishikesh is not doing as well as it should do. What I said was that there should be fuller utilisation of installed capacities. There is no harm in making this suggestion.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: But, what has been done. The Russians had said that it would be in full production in 3 years. Five years have already passed.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: I am in agreement with the hon. Member. This is a matter which should be looked into very carefully. His suggestion certainly merits consideration and I will certainly give it the consideration it merits.

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA: Sir, this menace of drug adulteration and manufacture of spurious and sub-standard drugs is doing immense harm to the health of the people. In view of the fact that the drug industry is growing fast in our country, will the Government take Immediate necessary- steps to build up Drug Control Departments with well-equipped drug testing laboratories in all the States ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The matter of quality control of drugs is under active consideration of the Government.

SHRI YASHPAL KAPUR: Sir, the cost is very high and the production is below the production capacity resulting in scarcity and high prices of drugs. Has it come to the Minister's notice as to how much money is spent by the firms on publicising their products ? You open any paper in the morning and you will find one-fourth of the page or half a page showing the long neck of an animal from Africa and saying: if you take this pill, your neck will be like this. Is it necessary ? As you do not allow income-tax rebate on publicising the essential commodities like the oil products or petrol, are you considering any proposal not to allow tax rebate on publicity of drugs which are not available and everybody tries to run after them ? The second thing is: how much commission is paid to the agent—sometimes it is 40 or 50%—and how much is distributed as samples to the doctors to please them ? These drugs are given to the patients by charging money.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Sir, I quite agree that a large percentage of production cost includes also the cost of advertisement. This is one of the complaints against capitalist market. Certainly in a country which is wedded to socialism, as this country is, we have to stop it as far as possible. One of the means suggested is that if they are taxed, then certainly there will be restriction on this practice. I am also aware of the problem that the percentage of Commission is fairly high and also there is a free distribution of samples. All that adds up to the cost of production of drugs and ultimately the consumer has to pay high prices. All this has to be looked into and, I suppose, it should be looked into by a committee as suggested by Mr. Krishan Kant.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : From time to time we read in the newspapers that the Central Drug Research Laboratory at Lucknow has discovered such and such a drug which is very potent in combating such and such a disease. Now, may I know from the Government what efforts have been made by the Government or the industry concerned to see that such drugs which are indigenously discovered, based on indigenously available raw materials, are properly utilised for commercial purposes and develop their potentialities ? Why is it that neither the Government nor the industry is taking any interest in developing drugs which are based on indigenous know-how and indigenous raw materials ?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: It is not a fact that the Government has not taken any interest. If anything, the Government is looking into it, and the Government is interested in it.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: Nothing comes into the market.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: Now the only question is about marketing, their commercial use. I will look into that.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: I want to know from the Minister as to what is the actual percentage of indigenous production of drugs against the total production in our country and against the total needs of the country.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: I will need notice for it, but I can say that in the drug industry a large percentage is, perhaps, being controlled by the foreign companies.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूडावत : क्या यह सही है कि आम जरूरत की जो दवाइयां हैं उन की कीमतें बहुत ऊंची हैं और जो कंपनियां उन को बनाती हैं वे सौ फीसदी तक का मुनाफा कमाती हैं। अभी मंत्री जी ने कहा कि कोई खास बात मुझे बतायी जाय तो मैं ध्यान दूँ। मैं ने मिसाल के लिए एलेबिक कंपनी के बारे में दो बार मंत्री जी को लिख कर दिया और मुझे कहा गया कि सारी सूचना टेबिल पर रख दी जायगी, लेकिन अफसोस है कि साल भर बाद भी मुझे

कोई जवाब नहीं मिला। अब क्या मंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि वे क्या इन दवाइयों को कंट्रोल करेंगे और इसमें पूरी जांच करावेंगे ताकि दवाइयें लोगों को ठीक कीमत पर मिल सकें और कंपनियां ज्यादा मुनाफा न कमायें और कीमतें कंट्रोल हो सकें ?

श्री डी० के० बरुआ : आप ने जो कहा है सही है। मैं उस को देख लूंगा। एक साल आप ने इंतजार किया, अब एक महीने और इंतजार कर लीजिए।

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूडावत : मंत्री जी अगर कीमतों को कंट्रोल करने का आश्वासन दें तो मैं साल भर और इंतजार कर लूंगी।

श्री डी० के० बरुआ : इस के बारे में एक महीने में मैं आप के सामने सारा मसला पेश कर दूंगा।

410. [The questioner (Shri V. K. Sakhlecha) was absent. For answer vide Cols. 32-33infra.]

M.R.T.P. COMMISSION

SHRI J. S. TILAK† SHRI GURMUKH SINGH

MUSAFIR: DR. Z. A. AHMED : SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : SHRI KRISHAN KANT: SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has failed to curb the growth of monopolies and restrictive trade practices; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to achieve the objectives ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) No Sir. The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act came into force on the 1st June 1970 and the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri J. S. Tilak.

Practices Commission has been functioning with effect from the 6th August 1970. The results of the working of the Act have been indicated in the Annual Administrative Report of the Commission for the period from the 6th August 1970 to the 31st December 1971 and the First Report on the Working of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act for the period from 1st June 1970 to 31st December, 1971 which were laid on the Table of the House on the 28th November 1972.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI J. S. TILAK : Is it a fact that the MRTP Act has become a dead horse and, if so, whether the Government is thinking of suitably amending it ? in the *Economic Times* published on 21-2-1973, it is stated :

"Members of the Monopolies Commission clashed with the Birla group of companies on the ground that the information sought by it was irrelevant to the main question." After that, what action did the Government or the MRTP Commission take in this matter ?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : I cannot say that the MRTP Commission is a dead horse. As a matter of fact there are amendments which are contemplated by the Government for the MRTP Act. About the clash between the Commission and the Birla group, for the time being I have no information. If the hon. Member gives me a notice, I will supply the information.

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : क्या सरकार ऐसे मोनोपलिस्टों की फेहरिस्त जाया करेगी जो कि पिछले दो सालों में पहले से ज्यादा मोनोपलिस्ट हो गये हैं ! बजाय इसके कि उन पर कोई पाबन्दी आयद हो वह ज्यादा मोनोपलिस्ट हो गये हैं तो क्या सरकार ऐसी कोई लिस्ट जाया करेगी !

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : Sir, concerning the increase in the assets of the monopoly houses, certain studies have been made in the Department, by the Research and statistical Organisation of the Department and not by the Commission. The study indicates that there is an annual average increase of about 10 per cent. Under the scheme of the Monopolies and Restricted Trade Practices Act, what happens, under section 21, those undertakings which have been registered