

India. To say that they should bring in new technology would really be asking us to recognise their position as if they have got to be here.

श्री बनारसी दास : क्या मंत्री महोदय कृपा करके बतलायेंगे कि क्या उनकी जानकारी में है कि विदेशी मैन्युफैक्चरर्स हिन्दुस्तान में कोलोवोरेशन में जो दवा बनाते हैं उनकी कीमत इम्पोर्टेड दवा के मुकाबले में कहीं ज्यादा है और क्या सरकार कोई ऐसी योजना पर विचार कर रही है कि दवाओं के दाम कम हो सकें और उसमें कम से कम जो विदेशी दवाएं आती हैं उनमें वह चीपर बन सके ?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : Yes, Sir, I agree that we have to consider that the foreign components should be reduced to the minimum.

SHRI BANARSI DAS : I did not ask for it. I said the imported drugs are cheaper than the manufactured ones when the same manufacturers manufacture them in collaboration with their Indian counterparts.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : It is because of the fact that some companies who do so in collaboration with their Indian counterparts get their know-how and technology from their parent company because they all belong to some parent companies which are of a global nature. In other fields where they can share, they share it with Indian counterparts. The Government's objective has always been to pursue the policy that wherever possible, without detriment to considerations of national health, the Indian sector particularly the small sector should be encouraged.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, I also asked the same question that Mr. Banarsi Das has put, whether they are satisfied that they are using the latest technology and not using the old technology to increase the prices.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you wish to add anything ?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : No Sir, I can't anything.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he

has come across the news item which appeared yesterday that for the import of raw material for a certain medicine, we have to spend 400 per cent more than the cost of the medicine if it is manufactured here. It can be manufactured here for Rs. 100. And an eminent scientist has said that there is no difficulty in manufacturing that medicine here. In spite of that, we allow the import of raw material for that medicine which costs us 400 per cent more. May I know if the Minister has come across this news item ? If he has not, will he kindly examine and let us know what the Government intends to do ?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : I have not come across this particular report, but I will certainly examine it.

INDO-IRAQ OIL EXPLORATION PROGRAMME

*420. **SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :**†

SHRI S. B. BOBDEY :

SHRI V. R. PARASHAR :

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a delegation from Iraq visited India for talks in regard to common oil exploration programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) and (b) A number of delegations from Iraq have visited India in the recent past for discussions in various fields of bilateral co-operation. During these discussions the bid by Oil and Natural Gas Commission to Iraq National Oil Company for oil exploration and development in one of the areas in Iraq was touched upon in general terms.

It is not in the public interest to disclose the details of these negotiations.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : In view of the national importance of undertaking with great enthusiasm the exploration of

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni.

oil in this country, and particularly in view of the requirements of our own refineries, may I know whether the Iraqi delegation has assured us or has given some indication that it will supply crude, or whatever it is, in sufficient quantities and at very reasonable prices?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : Sir, this is a question somewhat different from the main question. But I anticipated that this might be asked. As I have said earlier in this House, some kind of an agreement has already been reached with Iraq with regard for the supply of crude to this country. And for three years, 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75, an arrangement for the supply of 1.950 million tonnes has already been arrived at. But I am sorry to repeat what I said on the last occasion when this question was raised, that it is not in anybody's interest in this country to discuss the price structure. We are operating in a very highly competitive field.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : In general, along with the Iraqi contract whatever the prices may be, I would like to know whether it is a fact that the recent Malaviya Committee which has given its report to the Government has stated that a very powerful and independent status should be given to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and whether the Government has taken any decision on that.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : Yes, Sir. The Malaviya Committee has made recommendations suggesting more or less a three-tier organisation for dealing with our exploration programmes, and has emphasised the need for giving a very high status to this organisation. We are very carefully considering these proposals. But we have not yet taken a decision.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : In view of the fact that there is an ever rising need for more oil in our country, will the Government see to it that it comes to a firm agreement with the Arab countries and mainly with Iraq so that oil is not sabotaged by the foreign oil companies?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : Yes, Sir. We have made and partly succeeded in that direction and we will continue our efforts.

STEPS TO MEET WAGON SHORTAGE

421. **SHRI SITARAM KESRI :**

SHRI BHOLA PRASAD :

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :†

SHRI V. R. PRASHAR :

SHRI S. B. BOBDEY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted about the inordinate delays in the movement of wagons at different stations;

(b) whether any scheme has been formulated for the smooth movement of railway wagons to meet the shortage of wagons; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Movement of wagons is under constant and continuous watch at all levels. Work Studies of yards are conducted from time to time with the objective of improving mobility of wagons and optimising their utilisation so as to make more wagons available for traffic within the same resources. Schemes adopted for better usage and availability of wagons are long-distance marshalling of wagons, loading of traffic in block rakes, mechanisation of big yards electrifying and dieselising important trunk routes, expansion of terminal facilities, etc.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, there is an oft-repeated complaint about shortage of wagons whereby the industry is usually threatened with closure. Particularly I have myself addressed a letter to you regarding the acute shortage of wagons for the supply of coke to the small-scale sector in various parts of this country and foundries are threatened to be closed down. Apart from this, you are thinking of putting extra tariff for wagons which are going to be kept for long periods without unloading and those things which you are doing are all right. The point is whether you will consider allotting more wagons for coke supplies, because, for want of that the

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni.