

[13 May, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhattacharya, you have spoken almost for 45 minutes.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, would you please give me a direction where do I take up this matter? It is a very important matter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House will be adjourned today. So, the Resolution will also lapse. That is why I say that whatever you have spoken, it should result in some result-oriented approach. So, if you can complete your speech now, the Minister may reply to the questions raised by you, because, according to me more than the prices of the drugs, the question of spurious drugs is important. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, we are discussing an issue on which many questions get asked. Sir, this issue perennially agitates all of us. If he can, in the next 45 minutes, come up with something specific on how to deal with the problem of spurious or sub-standard drugs, and ensure better quality control and standard of drugs, the Minister can then respond and give us an assurance. So, I request my hon. colleague..*(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: He will take another 45 minutes.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: That much time we should take. ...*(Interruptions)...* I said, collectively, let us take 45 minutes..*(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, responding to the demand made by Mr. Dipankar Mukherjee, to the Finance Minister, to make certain statement on the CAG Report, the Finance Minister is *suo motu* making a statement.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Report of Comptroller and Auditor-General relating to sale of Centaur Hotels

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, after examining the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General in respect of sale of two Hotels, belonging to the Hotel Corporation of India, the Government has decided to order an inquiry. The nature and scope of the inquiry are under consideration, and will be announced in due course.