

of the question reads : "whether Government have categorised some medicines which are mostly used by the general public as essential; if so, the names thereof and their market prices ;". In reply the statement shows the prices per kg or per/mega/unit and so on. How are we going to understand what would be the cost of 100 tablets of vitamin G or 100 tablets of vitamin B12 and so on ? Then, if you look as the last item, prednisolene, you will find that the price is shown as Rs. 14,266, 21 per kg. How are we going to understand it and how much will it cost the public per tablet ?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : I am giving the figures as they are given to me by the Department.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : This does not answer the question in part (a).

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: He gives the answer without understanding it.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : The question asks the market price for the general public, but the statement gives the maximum selling price per kg. It is the price for the manufacturer and the price is given for bulk supplies.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you wish to add anything ?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : No, Sir.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : According to the statement, the Government has fixed the prices for 18 essential drugs. May I know from the Government why some of the most common pain-killing drugs have been excluded ? For example, analgesics like salicylic acid, etc. have not been included which are used by millions of people every day. Secondly...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Look at the time. Please be brief.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : The price quoted for tetracycline is Rs. 850 per kg. Whereas Tetracycline is available in Europe at Rs. 170 per kg., why is it that the price here has been fixed so high ?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : What was the first part of your question ?

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : Why are analgesics not included in the essential drugs ?

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Sir, this list is not the final list. A list of 18 essential drugs, is not the final list of drugs. The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices have made an investigation. They have appointed an Expert Committee. The Committee is going into this question. They have taken up a number of other drugs, perhaps 24 or 25, which are being also considered as essential drugs. This examination is under consideration

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : He should take the House into confidence and let us know the international prices of these drugs and the domestic prices.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : It will help the House if the Minister does some home work.

*427. [The questioner (Shri K. L. H. Prasad) was absent. For answer, vide col. 44 *infra*.]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PYRITES PHOSPHATES AND CHEMICALS UNIT AT AMJHORE

♦416. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government owned Pyrites Phosphates and Chemicals Unit at Amjmore has been suffering losses for the past few years ;

(b) if so, the comparative losses suffered by the Unit during the last three years and the cumulative loss suffered at the end of 1971-72 ; and

(c) the reasons for such losses and the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to minimise the losses ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Pyrites Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd. commenced production in 1968-69 and has been sustaining losses since then. The losses suffered by the company year-wise, and cumulative in the last three years are as follows :

(Rupees lakhs)			
Year		Loss of the year	Cumulative loss
1969-70	..	30.79	44.40
1970-71	..	28.03	72.43
1971-72	..	49.57	122.00

The above losses are mainly attributable to the low off take of the pyrites for production of sulphuric acid at Sindri and the poor quality of the pyrites mined at Amjhore. The acid plant was designed to use pyrites with a 40% Sulphur content. Due to thinness of the pyrite bed noticed during actual mining operations, the quality of the ore mined has fallen very much below this level. Use of low-grade ore in turn has created operational difficulties for the acid plant which had to cut the offtake due to frequent plant breakdowns. Although the mine capacity at Amjhore was developed on the basis that there would be sustained offtake of 400 tonnes of pyrites per day for the acid plant, the average consumption has come down to about 100 tonnes per day. This has resulted in higher cost of production and consequent losses to the company. On recommendation of an Expert Committee appointed by Government, steps have been taken to use the low-grade pyrite ore along with elemental sulphur by way of installation of sulphur burning facilities. Efforts are also being made to stabilise operations on this basis. With the remedial steps taken in hand, the acid plant is expected to consume full 400 tonnes of pyrites per day from about the middle of 1973. This is expected to bring down the cost of production and improve the working results of the company.

A second pyrite-based sulphuric acid plant with a capacity of 880 tonnes per day is under erection at Sindri as part of the Sindri Rationalisation Scheme, and is expected to go into production in 1974. This would increase the pyrites offtake to 900 tonnes per day and would considerably help improve the operating results of the undertaking.

REORGANISATION OF STG

♦417. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have completed examination of the recommendations made by

the "Review committee" in regard to the reorganisation of the State Trading Corporation ; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The examination of the recommendations made by the Review Committee in regard to the reorganisation of the State Trading Corporation was completed in January, 1970. The decisions taken on the main recommendations of the Committee are as follows :—

(i) that the Board of Directors of the Corporation may be strengthened by appointment of two additional Directors.

(ii) that post of Financial Adviser may be upgraded to that of Director (Finance).

(iii) that a Committee of Management may be formed with working Directors and Chairman who should jointly decide all main issues.

(iv) that the STC may not be converted into four smaller Corporations to be organised as subsidiaries of the holding company. It was agreed in principle that the pattern of holding company working through its subsidiaries should eventually be conducive to better management. If the Corporation is able to identify a well defined sector or a particular division in which the nature, volume and range of work may justify organisation into a subsidiary, specific proposals in this regard could be considered.

(v) that the creation of a post of Vice-Chairman would premature at this stage and could be examined later in the light of the growth of the Corporations' activities.

(vi) that the foreign offices of the Corporation be reorganised by organising regional groups with a regional base giving technical and marketing service support to smaller offices in the area emphasis being laid on selling and procuring of business, economy may be combined with effectiveness.

(vii) that some of the showrooms