

(2) Cortucid cream (to be used in persistent cases only).

(3) Sulpha tablets-long acting 1 per day by mouth or in appropriate doses according to body weight under the guidance of the doctor and drinking plenty of fluids.

(4) APC or Aspirin to be used in case of head-ache.

(ii) So far in the Ophthalmic Literature, no prevention against this virus has been reported. However, towards prophylaxis sulphacetamide 10 per cent drops one to two drops in each eye 8 times a day may be advised to be applied.

(iii) The private practitioners can also advise the public and the patients the following to prevent the spread of the disease:

(1) Closing swimming pools.

(2) Postponing all non-emergency eye operations.

(3) Advising the public through Radio, audio-visual aids, and the Press to take precautionary measures such as:

(a) The nearest medical centre of the doctor should be contacted on the onset of irrigation of the eyes.

(b) People should avoid unnecessary crowded gatherings.

(c) Those who have eye infection should remain at home under treatment and keep themselves aloof from others to avoid further spread of infection.

(d) People should avoid physical contact with those who have got infection.

(e) Infected persons should have handkerchiefs, towels and other articles exclusively for their own use. Such articles should be thoroughly disinfected.

(f) Those coming in contact with patients should wash their hands thoroughly.

(g) Medicines of contacts and patients should be kept separately.

(h) Avoiding contact with material like soap, towels, etc. used by the patients.

DRUG PRICES

113. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/

पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a heavy rise in profits of a large number of pharmaceutical companies during 1970;

(b) whether it is also a fact that prices of some of the life-saving drugs rose during this period; and

(c) if so, what steps had been taken by Government to make available these life-saving drugs at the fixed prices and to check the rise in the prices by unscrupulous drug traders?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री

(SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Government have no such information.

(b) and (c) Consequent on the issue of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970, in May 1970 there was a rise in the prices of certain drugs, but by an Order issued on the 18th August, 1970, the prices of such drugs were frozen by Government at the levels prevailing immediately before the commencement of the Order, pending scrutiny of the pricing data by Government. Necessary approvals after scrutiny of the pricing data were issued in December, 1970.

In the final analysis, prices of some drugs have increased over the prices prevailing in May, 1970, the increase being entirely due to higher costs of raw materials and other costs of production. The whole objective of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970 is to rationalise the price structure of drugs and such increases, as were permitted in respect of certain drugs as a part of the rationalisation scheme, were limited to the minimum necessary. In permitting such increases, Government have taken care to see that the prices of popular drugs are not increased and that the drugs are available to consumers at reasonable prices.

AGREEMENT WITH FOREIGN COMPANIES REGARDING DRILLING OF OIL IN INDIA

114. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government of India have entered into agreement with certain foreign companies this year about the drilling of oil in India: and

(b) if so, the details thereof? THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND

CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री (SHRI P.C. SETHI): (a) and (b) An agreement was signed, in February, 1971, between Government and M/s. Mitsubishi Shoji Kaisha Ltd. of Japan, for the construction and supply of a self-propelled, self-elevating offshore drilling vessel of "Mercury" type. This vessel will be built in the shipyard of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. The vessel is capable of drilling in water depth upto 80 metres in the Arabian sea adjoining the Gulf of Cambay and the drilling rig mounted on it is capable of drilling upto 6100 meters (20,000 ft.) depth. The drilling vessel is expected to be delivered in Japan at the end of September, 1971. Its cost inclusive of drilling rig and machinery and jacking system is Rs. 10.9875 crores. Another contract has been signed with the American firm, Offshore International S. A. Houston which would provide technical Assistance for drilling, using this drilling vessel, for a period of one year and to train Indian drillers and technicians in Offshore operations.

IMPORT OF U.A.R. CRUDE

115. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI SUHRID MULLICK CHOU

DHARY: KUMARI SHANTA VASISHT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND

CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री (SHRI P. C. SETHI): be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 811 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th June, 1971 and state.

(a) the present stage of the negotiation with U.A.R. and U.S.S.R. in respect of import of crude;

(b) by when it is expected to be finalised; and

(c) the results yielded by the efforts to obtain crude from other sources?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री

(SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c) The talks with U.A.R. and U.S.S.R. regarding import of crude are still continuing. It will be sometime before the negotiations are concluded and results are known.

DEATH OF REFUGEES DUE TO CHOLERA

116. SHRI MAHITOSH PURAKAYAS-THA:

SHRI RAM SAHAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY

PLANNING/स्वास्थ्य और परिवार

नियोजन मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) the number of refugees from Bangla Desh who died in different camps due to cholera and other epidemics so far; and

(b) the arrangements which have been made so far for the improvement of sanitary conditions in the camps and in line towns in the States of West Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya where there have been heavy concentration of refugees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING/

(PROF.

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

D. P.

CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) There have been reports of deaths due to cholera and gastro-enteritis. The available information in this regards is as follows;

Name of State	No. of deaths
West Bengal (Among evacuees in Hospitals and Health Centres)	4,576 (upto 15-7-1971)
Assam	15 (upto 15-5-1971)
Meghalaya	592 (upto 15-6-1971)
Tripura	1 (upto 6-6-1971)
Madhya Pradesh (Mana Camp)	5 (upto 25-6-1971)

(b) Action has been taken to improve the housing, water supply, latrines, garbage collection and disposal as given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Measures to be taken for housing the refugees from East Bengal

CINFRAL

(1) Not more than 5,000 persons should be kept in any one camp for effective control of the problem posed by the evacuees.

(2) The site should be easily accessible from a main road and be such as to facilitate easy drainage.

Tents

(3) Though tents are to be put up as an emergency measure, it is preferable to go in for semi-pucca construction with galvanised corrugated iron sheet roofing supported on bamboo roof frame-work on bamboo poles.