

श्री सभापति : सारा हाउस आपसे कह रहा है ।

(Shri Rajnarain continued to speak)

श्री पीताम्बर दास : इस प्रश्न को आप बाद में उठावें ।

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, आप की इस व्यवस्था के विरोध में और स्वाधीन बंगला देश की आवाज बुलन्द करने के लिये मैं आज सदन का त्याग कर रहा हूँ ।

(At this stage, Shri Rajnarain left the House)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DRUG PRICES

श्री M. K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/ पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any substantial reduction in drug prices since the enforcement of the Drug Prices Control Order with effect from August, 1970;

(b) whether there has been any increase in the prices of any life saving drugs since the enforcement of the Drugs Prices Control Order and if so, in respect of what drugs and what were the reasons for the increase;

(c) whether any representation has been received by Government to the effect that after the Drugs Prices Control Order, there has been an overall increase of between 20 per cent to 50 per cent in drug prices, and the same has defeated the purpose of the order; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/ पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में सहायक मंत्री (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) The prices of a number of drugs have recorded substantial reductions as a result of the enforcement of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970.

(b) Prices of certain medicines like Sulphas, Anti amoebic drugs, Vitamins, anti-

Starred Question Nos. 206 and 211 were taken up together.

TB drugs etc. have shown some increase after the price control order. The objectives underlying the price control measures of the Government are not merely of price reduction but also of price control and rationalisation. In this scheme of things, price increases in respect of some of the drugs as mentioned above had to be permitted. Government, however, took care to see that the increases were only with reference to the increase in the cost of raw materials and other costs, to an extent that could not be absorbed in the existing price.

(c) and (d) Various representations relating to Drugs Prices have been received. They include complaints of price increases in respect of certain drugs the reasons for which are given in the reply earlier. The Government do not agree that there has been overall increase between 20 to 50 per cent in drug prices after the Drugs (Prices Control) Order and these price increases have defeated the purpose of the price control order.

SCARCITY OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS IN THE COUNTRY

•211. SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

SHRI ARTUN ARORA:

DR. SALIG RAM;

SHRI RAIENDRA PRATAP SINHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the scarcity of some essential drugs in the country;

(b) if so, what are those drugs;

(c) the reasons for the scarcity; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to meet the scarcity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/ पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्रालय में सहायक मंत्री (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shortages have been reported mainly in respect of antibiotics preparations, anti diabetic drugs, sera and vaccines, vitamins, anti TB drug's, etc.

(c) The reasons for the shortages are reported to be due to inadequate indigenous production, delays in imports as well as spurt in demand consequent upon the reductions in prices under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970.

(d) Steps have been taken to increase indigenous production wherever possible and to expedite imports through State Trading Corporation in adequate quantities so that