

(1) whether it is a fact that the prices of about 30 per cent of the drugs had been increased as shown in their lists; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/ **पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री** (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c) Apparently the Hon. Members are referring to the revised price lists submitted by the drug manufacturers in pursuance of the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970. The Drug Price Review Board had scrutinised the price lists of 111 leading drug manufacturers in the organised, medium and small scale sector. Out of 11,732 formulations covered by these price lists, only in respect of 1341 formulations which works out to 11.4 per cent of the total, some price increases were allowed. In the case of 44.9 per cent of the formulations the prices were reduced. By and large the prices of popular formulations have either been reduced or maintained.

MANUFACTURE AND MARKETING OF MOBILE OIL IN DELHI

*373. DR. Z. A. AHMAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/ **पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री**

be pleased to state;

(a) whether a racket in manufacturing spurious mobile oil and marketing it as some popular brands has been discovered recently in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the offenders?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/ **पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री** (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delhi Police is investigating the matter.

SALE OF ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA BY BRITAIN

*374. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ **विदेश**

मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to withdraw from the Commonwealth on account of the various activities of Britain relating to the sale of arms to South Africa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/

विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

The British decision to sell arms to the racist regime of South Africa in disregard of the near unanimous opinion of the Commonwealth has placed a great strain on the Commonwealth, and has indeed weakened its moral foundations. Following the British decision, members of the Commonwealth have been in Much with each other on their future course of action but there has been no definite suggestion so far of any withdrawal from the Commonwealth.

ASIAN COUNTRIES CONFERENCE ON MILITARY ATROCITIES IN EAST-BENGAL

*375. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ **विदेश मंत्री** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India proposed an Asian countries conference on the Pakistani military atrocities in East Bengal; and

(b) if so, names of the countries with whom contacts were established in this regard and reactions of the countries concerned in regard to the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/

विदेश मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of India have taken several steps to acquaint the countries of Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America and others with the scale of atrocities being perpetrated in Bengla Desh by the Pakistan military authorities and about the impact of it on India. Government of India feel that the full magnitude of the problem and its implications is now being gradually realised in the Capitals of the world. They do not consider it necessary to call a conference of the kind proposed by the Hon'ble Member.

UNITS TO IDENTIFY MEDICAL PLANTS AND HERBS

*376. SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON: SHRI M. V. BHADRAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING/ **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार**

नियोजन मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units which have been set up by the Central Council for Research in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy to identify medical plants and herbs in various parts of the country; and

(b) what progress has been made in their work?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING/ **स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मन्त्रालय में उपमन्त्री** (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) Seven Pharmacognosy Units are functioning for identification of medicinal plants and herbs in various parts of the country under the Council. Besides, there are fourteen units for the survey of medicinal plants which are also concerned with gross identification of medicinal plants and herbs.

(b) The identification of fifty-four medicinal plants and herbs in all its aspects has been completed by the Pharmacognosy Units. In addition, the various units for survey of medicinal plants have also completed preliminary identification of about a thousand species of medicinal plants.

EXISTENCE OF INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN U.K.

*377. SHRI SASANK ASEKHAR SAN-YAL:

SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULY: SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ **विदेश मन्त्री** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of staff employed in the Indian High Commission in London and the annual expenditure of the Mission;

(b) whether any steps are being taken by Government to minimise the expenditure of the Mission; and

(c) if so, what steps have already been taken in that direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ **विदेश मन्त्रालय में उपमन्त्री** (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) The strength of the officers and staff of all the Departments of the High Commission of all India, London, was 640 in 1970-71.

The expenditure for 1970-71 so far booked is Rs. 173.28 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir. The question of economy consistent with functional effectiveness of the High Commission of India, London, is continuously under Government's attention.

(c) The High Commission was inspected thrice by the Foreign Service Inspectors during the period 1967—1971 with accent on its staffing pattern and economy. In 1968-69, there were 745 posts. During the period from 1969-70 to 1970-71, 99 posts

were reduced. The expenditure in 1968-69 was Rs. 252.14 lakhs, while that accounted so far in the accounts for 1970-71 (still open till August 1971) is Rs. 173.28 lakhs. This will mean a saving of approximately Rs. 75 lakhs.

DOCTORS IN SOUTH AFRICA

*378. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY:

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ **विदेश मन्त्री** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties faced by the Indian doctors in South Africa who have not yet been granted permits to continue their present practice in that country;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to solve the problems?

HIE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ **विदेश मन्त्रालय में उप मन्त्री** (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Government are not aware of any Indian doctors facing such difficulties. However, there have been reports that under the Group Areas Act, some South African doctors of Indian origin have not been allowed to continue practice in their former areas as the Act has excluded them from those areas. The intention appears to be to prevent them from tending to people other than those of Indian origin.

(b) and (c) The Government of India's attitude to the policy of apartheid on which the above is based is well-known. We have unequivocally and consistently condemned it at the United Nations and at other international forums.

INDANE GAS CYLINDER

*379. SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn in the news item appeared in "The Hindu", dated the 14th April, 1971 to the effect that the quantity of the Indane Gas Cylinder has been reduced very much;