

(b) the estimates of production and profit/loss during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to overcome the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) The accounts for the last year (i.e. 1969-70) are yet to be audited by the Company's Auditors. The loss suffered by the Company during 1968-69 was Rs. 9.154 lakhs.

(b) The budgeted value of production and loss for the current year are Rs. 22.37 crores and Rs. 1.8 crores respectively.

(c) The following steps are being taken up by the company to overcome the losses:

(i) The Company's efforts are now concentrated on attaining rated capacities and achieving the norms of production and consumption indicated by the collaborators within the time stipulated therefor. These efforts are intended to stabilise the production of antibiotics and synthetic drugs and bring down the costs to the level of standard estimates.

(ii) With a view to obtain lower costs by attaining the economies of scale, the capacities are being enhanced for Phenacetin, Sulphanilamide, Analgin, Amidopyrine, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, Folic Acid and Phenobarbitone by marginal additions of equipments.

(iii) Production of new drugs like Paracetamol and P.S has been programmed for production within the available facilities of Synthetic Drugs Plant.

(iv) In the Surgical Instruments Plant, efforts are being made on continuous basis to increase the order level both for the existing product-mix and newly developed instruments at the Plant and also for job orders with a view to utilise fully the capacity.

ASSISTANCE IN UNEARTHING FRAUDS IN THE CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA

1224. **SHRI A. D. MANI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether letters were received from Shri K. A. Laxman Prabhu of Calcutta by the authorities of the Central Bank of India and the Reserve Bank of India offering assistance in unearthing frauds in the Central Bank of India prior to its nationalisation; and

(b) if so, what action was taken by Government on those letters?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) A letter dated the

22nd August, 1969 from Shri K. A. Laxman Prabhu, 1/2B, Prince Gulam Mohammad Road, Calcutta-26 is understood to have been received in the Central Office of the Reserve Bank of India, Bombay. A copy of this letter had *inter alia* also been endorsed by Shri Laxman Prabhu to the branch of the Central Bank of India, Calcutta.

Shri Prabhu is understood to have mentioned in the letter that "now that the banks have been nationalised... it would be in the interest of the banks themselves that frauds and cheatings by misrepresentations by the concerned few clients of the banks are unearthed and brought to the notice of the top authorities of the banks concerned with a view to helping the banks in big monetary loss-rings". He had also claimed to have unearthed one such case of a bank and that at the material time he had a case of the Central Bank of India, Calcutta in hand, involving a couple of lakhs of rupees. Shri Prabhu wished to know how much banks would pay in successful cases and suggested that he should be paid a retainer on a monthly remuneration of Rs. 1,000 plus 2 per cent of the amount involved or 5 per cent of the amount with an advance of Rs. 500 in each case if the banks would not wish to engage him on a retainer basis. He also stated that he was endorsing a copy to the Calcutta office of the Central Bank requesting them to inform him if they would entertain his offer.

2. A decision on such an offer has to be made by the managements of the individual banks. The Reserve Bank, therefore, replied to Shri Prabhu that it had no information called for by him. The Central Bank of India, Calcutta for whom the offer was apparently intended had, in its letter dated 26th August, 1969 denied having entrusted any investigation to him. At the same time, the bank requested Shri Prabhu, to let it have information in his possession about any particular case. No communication was received by Government from Shri Laxman Prabhu and the question of any action thereon by it would not, therefore, arise.

PROTECTION TO COLLIERIES FOR SUPPLYING COAL TO NORTHERN AND EASTERN INDIA

1225. **SHRI KALYAN ROY:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state,

(a) whether any policies have been adopted by the Coal Advisory Council to give protection to the collieries in various fields, like West Bengal and outlying fields for continuity in the maintenance of their buyers;

(b) whether collieries of West Bengal were reserved for supplying coal to Northern and Eastern India according to the decisions of the Coal Advisory Council;

(c) whether this decision has of late been violated by the Railways; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

FOREIGN COLLABORATION FOR CAMBAY DRILLING

1326. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken in respect of collaboration with any foreign company for Cambay drilling; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Negotiations are still being conducted with certain foreign Groups for obtaining technical and financial assistance for the purchase of a suitable mobile drilling platform and for technical assistance initially to ONGC in operating this unit.

As for drilling in shallow waters, ONGC commenced drilling operations in the first well in March, 1970. The operations were suspended during the monsoons and would be resumed soon after the end of the monsoons.

OFF-SHORE DRILLING OPERATIONS AT ALIABET

1327. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent during the year 1969-70 on off-shore drilling operations at Aliabet;

(b) the area in which the drilling operations are being carried on; and

(c) what are the expectations of striking oil in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) Rs. 100.73 lakhs (Approximately).

(b) The drilling operations are being conducted in the off-shore area of the Gulf of Cambay, at a place located about 7 kms. West of Aliabet Island.

(c) Nothing definite about striking oil can be said at this stage of drilling operations.

SUB-STANDARD AND SPURIOUS DRUGS

1328. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the widespread prevalence of sub-standard and spurious drugs throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether this is due mainly to the failure of the majority of States to rigidly enforce the Drugs and Cosmetics Act; and

(c) if so, what steps the Central Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): (a) From the information collected from the State Drugs Control Organisations and the information available with the Central Drugs Control Organisation there does not appear to be any widespread prevalence of sub-standard and spurious drugs throughout the country.

(b) and (c) The enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act in many States is not stringent. This is because facilities for rigid enforcement in many States are lacking. A statement indicating the steps taken by the Central Government to combat manufacture and sale of sub-standard and spurious drugs is attached.

STATEMENT

Steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Central Government to combat the manufacture and sale of sub-standard and spurious drugs

The following steps have been taken to combat manufacture and sale of sub-standard and spurious drugs:—

(1) To eliminate unlicensed manufacturers of drugs, who usually indulge in manufacture and sale of spurious drugs, an 'All-India List of Licensed Drug Manufacturers' has been printed and made freely available to all concerned at nominal price. This list is revised from time to time and copies of the revised list are circulated to State Drugs Control Organisations and to Associations of dealers in drugs.