

concerns for building quarters for workers, and how many acres of land which have been so acquired for Birlas at the expense of the paddy-growing lands, are still lying unutilized by the Birlas in the matter of construction of workers' quarters?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY : We have no information, Sir.

#### ANTIBIOTICS PROJECT, RISHIKESH

\*269. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Antibiotics Project at Rishikesh could not produce any of the antibiotics for which the plant was imported,

(b) whether it is also a fact that basic changes are necessary in the plant for manufacturing products other than the original antibiotics,

(c) whether it is a fact that Russian-trained Technical staff are holding non-technical posts, and

(d) whether there are numerous complaints against the Chairman, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd who was formerly General Manager of Bhilai Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN)

(a) No, Sir

(b) No changes are necessary except for replacing the capacity of Chlorotetracycline in case demand does not justify its production fully or partly

(c) No, Sir

(d) Some complaints have been received but they have been found to be without foundation.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know what the target date was for the production of various articles to be produced in that project? May I know whether they were produced according to the target dates and is it not a fact that not a single thing which was to be produced there has yet been produced in that institute?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : Answering the latter part of the question that not a single item was produced, Sir, it is not correct.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Then, what has been produced there? Please tell that.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : I can tell you. I am coming to that. Secondly, as regards the target date fixed for the completion of the project and for commissioning of the project, certain delays have occurred and the delays will be varying between six to eleven

(Interruption)

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Give us something.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : If you want specific dates I am prepared to give you.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : How long has been the delay and when do you expect it to be started?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : For the manufacture of Potassium Benzyl Penicillin, the scheduled date for the completion of the project was April/May 1967. It was completed in May/June 1967.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know whether the production has started? Do not give an evasive answer.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : If he will bear with me, I am prepared to give all the details which he is asking. He asked whether the plant which was to be commissioned has gone into production according to the schedule. I replied that nearly 11 months' delay has taken place so far as the erection and construction of the plant is concerned. Concerning production my friend stated that the things which were to be produced have not been produced. I may mention that Potassium Benzyl Penicillin, Sodium Benzyl Penicillin, Procaine Benzyl Penicillin, Streptomycin Sulphate and Tetracycline Hydrochloride were supposed to be produced. As against that Potassium Benzyl Penicillin has been produced, Sodium Benzyl Penicillin has been produced, Procaine Benzyl Penicillin has been produced, Streptomycin and Tetracycline base have been produced. Only for one item, which I mentioned in the reply, there is no demand for it and therefore that will be replaced by another antibiotic.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : What were the reasons for switching over from one antibiotic to another and in reply to part (d) he said that the charges

alleged were found to be baseless? May I know whether any enquiry was conducted and, if so, by whom and what was the result of that enquiry?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : I mentioned in the reply that only in regard to one item there was no demand for it, it is being replaced by another antibiotic. That item is chlortetracycline. Concerning the complaint against the Chairman and Managing Director of the Company, Mr. Inderjit Singh, to which a reference has been made by my friend, all the complaints were gone into by the Board of Directors and by the Government and the conclusion they have reached is that there is no substance in the allegations.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : In view of the fact that the Government continues its policy of appointing non-technical men to be Chairmen or Heads of concerns which are of a highly technical nature, all these complaints are coming. May I know what were the specific complaints which were enquired into and the results thereof. I would not like you to go into all the complaints but some major complaints should be stated and the result of that enquiry?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : Concerning the result of the enquiry I just now stated that all these complaints were gone into. . .

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : I want the complaints.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : My friend asked about the nature of the complaint.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : Irregularities, nepotism, etc.—all these are the complaints.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : These are general. Relating to what or nepotism of what nature ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The Minister must be in possession of some facts.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : There are very serious complaints—nepotism, irregularities, etc. You should specify them.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : Specific complaint was that certain officers were superseded and a reign of terror has been established by the Managing Director and the irregularities alleged were regarding appointment and there were no specific corruption charges. I have not got them with me but broadly I have stated this.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : In view of the fact that there was a specific question, the Minister could have been ready with the answers. He should have expected that the Members would ask about the specific charges. He knows nothing about it.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : The nature of the charges has been mentioned.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : In view of the fact that no specific mention has been made and in view of the fact that the nature of the charges is of a very serious nature, may I know whether he would be prepared to entrust this enquiry regarding these charges to some authority outside the Government?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : The Committee on Public Undertaking is going into its working. We are awaiting the report.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY : I have been told that some of the collaboration projects with Russia, regarding the Drug Unit at Hyderabad and the Surgical Unit at Madras—I am told by a top expert—are producing drugs which are out of date and the surgical instruments produced at Madras are so sophisticated that they cannot be used in India. When we have collaboration with foreign Governments, do we have a set of personnel to see what is needed for India or we just have collaboration to please other countries because of our other policies?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : So far as the antibiotics produced at Rishikesh are concerned, there is a person in charge of the quality control. Similarly in all the places where these articles are produced for consumption in the country, particularly the Surgical Instruments at Madras and the Synthetic Drugs at Hyderabad, the factories have adequate quality control arrangements.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY : The other day when I went to Madras I was told by a top technical man that whatever was produced could not be used in India and they are trying to negotiate with other countries to export outside. Why do we waste our money in having collaborations which we do not need and what we need we are not getting? Who is responsible for this?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN : So far as the surgical instruments which are produced to which a reference has been made, there were certain difficulties in the initial stages as it always happens in public

sector undertakings in the beginning. They are not insurmountable and they are getting solved. Quality control is there and all these things are there.

**सरदार गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर :** मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सच है कि इन्डियन ड्रग्स एण्ड फार्मेस्यूटिकल्स लिमिटेड के मूतालिक पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग कमेटी ने हाल ही में एक एग्जामिनेशन कराया है, तो हर एक पौण्ड पर जो उन्होंने एग्जामिन कराया है उसके बारे में उनकी फाइन्डिंग क्या है ?

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** I had stated that we are awaiting the report of the Committee on Public Undertakings.

**DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :** May I know from the Government if it is not a fact that the equipment installed at this plant in Rishikesh is according to the Russian Pharmacopoeia which is different from the British Pharmacopoeia which is followed in this country, and, if so, whether it is also not a fact that because of this whatever drugs can be manufactured there cannot be utilised by the medical profession in this country because if they do so, there would be more of risk involved and if the Minister agrees with this that the standards of Pharmacopoeia differ—I do not say which is good or bad but the standards being different—why was it that this particular question was not thrashed out and settled before the particular plant was put up or was it that since we were getting the aid, we just jumped at it without bothering whether we can take advantage of that installation or not ?

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** As to the first part of the question in which a reference has been made by my hon. friend to the standards, it is true that some of the products which were to be produced were up to the standards that were prescribed for the Russian medicines but not up to the standards prescribed for the drugs in India.

**SHRI C. D. PANDE :** Not standard but the methodology.

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** That is what I am saying. Even though the products were commissioned, till recently there were difficulties about some of the products satisfying pharmacopoeial standards. At the initial stages the products satisfied USSR pharmacopoeia but, since products satisfying

Indian pharmacopoeial standards were required by the drug control authorities certain improvements and changes had to be made. All these problems have been gradually solved, and the company informs us that the plant seems to be getting out of difficulties and its products are already being supplied to Government institutions in West Bengal, Kerala, and to the local stores depots.

**SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJA-GOPALAN) :** To part (d) of the question the Minister's reply was not clear. He said that the charges were gone into by the board of directors and the Government. I would like to know which board of directors it was, whether of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, or of the Steel Plants. As to his reference to Government, I would like to know whether it is the Ministry under which came the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, or the Steel Ministry.

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** The board of directors is the board of directors of this Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, and the Government is the Government of India in the Ministry of Petrochemicals, Mines and Metals.

**SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is one basic issue which has arisen out of the hon. Minister's reply. The charges were about his acts of omission and commission when he was General Manager of the Bhilai steel plant. And how is the board of directors of the IDPL competent to go into those charges and say that they are baseless?

**SHRI C. D. PANDE :** So about Ranchi.

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** Yes, it is a pertinent point whether the charges were concerning what he did while he was in Bhilai or concerning what he did here. That I will look into.

**SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :** Yes, please look into.

**SHRI D. R. CHAVAN :** Also I may tell this hon. House that myself and my senior colleague, both of us are going to the place very shortly.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Next question.