

May I know now whether the drugs which have been mentioned earlier by Shri Mani are being supplied to the diabetic throughout their tenure of service and, secondly, will it not be worth while that the health of the person is kept better ? Otherwise, his efficiency goes down and the human faults which are responsible for so many accidents will occur.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: We are thankful to the hon. Member for this information. But I still stick to our rule because this is a good compromise between the two suggestions that have been offered by the two hon. Members that dietary control plus this drug and all the drugs that are known to the medical world are supplied by the Railway hospitals.

SHRI D. THENGARI : In the case of diseases that are protracted in the very nature of things, will the Government accept the principle that free medical aid should be given to the poor employees ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Yes. The question is whether they can be treated freely for an indefinite period. To that I said that they are treated with any anti-diabetic drugs considered suitable to the individual, till stabilised, which may be expected within 3 months in uncomplicated cases.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You were mentioning some medicines, Mr. Mani.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, I met a patient who was suffering and who was treated at the Railway hospital. That man was an advanced case of diabetes. His private doctors are now giving him diabenese or chlorobromide. The Railway hospital has said that they have no stock of chlorobromide and he should better use tolbutamide. In the case of diabetes, Sir, the Diabetic Congress, which held a meeting recently, will testify that certain medicines have got to be taken continuously for retaining the blood sugar at normal level. It is almost killing a patient by saying that we would

give only some medicines and not others to him. Will the Minister please ascertain from the Diabetic Association of India that the rules are in conformity with the requirements of diabetic treatment ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : This is an individual case, Sir. We would have been still happier had the hon'ble Member passed on that information to us so that we would have known the facts of the case.

श्री के० सी० बख्श : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को इस बात का पता है कि आजकल उरली कांचन प्राकृतिक चिकित्सालय संस्था और गोरखपुर प्राकृतिक चिकित्सालय संस्था में डायबिटीज के बारे में जो इलाज होता है वह बहुत ही सुन्दर और इफेक्टिव है और क्या इस तरफ गवर्नमेंट का ध्यान आकषित हुआ है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : जी हां, सुन्दर प्रयोग है और जैसा कि अभी श्री मणि साहब ने बम्बई के बारे में कहा अगर उधर लागू कर दिया जाय तो बहुत अच्छा होगा ।

MONOPOLY RIGHTS TO MMTC TO SUPPLY IRON AND MANGANESE ORES TO STEEL PLANTS

*761. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state : whether any decision has been taken by Government that Metal and Mineral Trading Corporation Ltd. will have the exclusive right in the matter of supply of iron ore and manganese to the public sector steel mills ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH) : No, Sir. It was the agreement of Hindustan Steel Limited, which is an autonomous undertaking in the public sector, that their requirements of iron ore and manganese ore were being obtained for them by the MMTC over and above MMTC's own procurement for export purposes. Recently, the Hindustan Steel Limited decided to obtain their requirements

through direct contracts. However, discussions are continuing between the Ministries of Steel and Commerce to resume supplies required by HSL through MMTC on an agreed basis.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Sir, from the reply it seems that not only there is no preferential treatment, there is step-motherly treatment from the H.S.L. as he refers. Does the hon'ble Minister know that though the M.M.T.C. was prepared to supply to H.S.L., Rourkela, iron ore at Rs. 16 per tonne and for that purpose sent a telegram to the H.S.L. on the 19th May, wrote a letter to that effect on the 4th July, and the Chairman, M.M.T.C. met the H.S.L. Chairman on the 5th July to convey that the M.M.T.C. was agreeable to supply at Rs. 16 per tonne, the H.S.L. Rourkela spurned the offer? Now, may I know, Sir, whether there was no tender called in this respect and after three days of this meeting with the H.S.L. Chairman, on July 8, the H.S.L., Rourkela entered into a long-term agreement with three mine-owners without calling for tenders for supply of iron ore at Rs. 16 per tonne? May I know, Sir, whether the M.M.T.C. is being treated in a step-motherly manner and whether the M.M.T.C. could not oblige the H.S.L. in the normal way as private individuals do?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH : Sir, it is a question involving so many butts. I think the hon'ble Member understands the policy involved. The H.S.L. is a public sector undertaking. As an autonomous body it is free to buy from the best source that it likes. The M.M.T.C. similarly is a public sector autonomous corporation. There are bound to be differences of opinion between the two and we should respect them.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Sir there might be some difference of opinion, but when both the sectors are public sector industries and the M.M.T.C. is formed primarily not only to undertake export of ores but to supply ores to public sector industries and to distribute the order for ores in such a way that there is an equitable distribution amongst these small mine-owners, may I know, Sir, whether this very objective

has not been foiled by the actions of the H.S.L. ? And if it is so, may I know, Sir, whether the Minister wants to take up this matter with the Iron and Steel Ministry so that in future if there is parity as regards rate, the M.M.T.C. will enjoy preference because it is a public sector undertaking ?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH : Sir, I have something to do with the constitution of the M.M.T.C. I do not know how far the objectives are served in such roundabout manner as the hon'ble Member has said. The M.M.T.C.'s main objective is to promote exports of mineral ores in this country and along with that it fulfils many objectives; one of them was that long-term contracts with another public sector corporation be there to their level best. We have no grouse against the M.M.T.C. Now, if at any time the services of the M.M.T.C. could not be utilised to the same extent as by some other arrangement, even though, as I have said in the concluding part of my answer, the negotiations between the two Corporations are going on, and I hope there is enough goodwill between the two to supply the material as best as they can.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, in fairness, this question should have been replied to by the Minister of Iron and Steel...

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH : There is a half-an-hour discussion already.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : ... because the M.M.T.C. is the supplier and the Ministry of Iron and Steel, the H.S.L., is the purchaser. I want to know why is it that the H.S.L. prefers private suppliers who, as the Member alleged, can oblige a public sector corporation. Now that the Minister of Commerce is replying, I want to know whether it is a fact that the M.M.T.C. supplies equally good material in quality and quantity as supplied by private suppliers or are they inferior?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH : Government occasionally buys ores. That we supply to the H.S.L. This was a satisfactory arrangement. Maybe, at a particular period of time, because of exigencies of the situation, as a result of the

autonomy of the type granted by this honourable House to the public sector undertakings, some freedom has been left to the individual management to decide from time to time what serves the public interest best. Even then we have a half-an-hour's discussion ...

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : There is no question ...

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH : I am still holding the floor. As long as the public sector undertaking has no grouse, it stands in competition. And between the two Ministries talks are going on. If at a particular moment of time it is found that in order to keep the H.S.L. going on they have to decide that they will buy from outside there may be no cause for grievance.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Autonomy should not be misused.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : May I know, Sir, Mr. Chairman, if the hon'ble Minister makes a distinction between 'independent' and 'autonomous' or he does not make a distinction ? (*Interruption by Shri Manubhai Shah*). Listen to my question and then answer. My understanding of an autonomous corporation is that it is competent for the Government to issue general directives or indicate the broad lines of policy that an autonomous corporation should pursue. In this case both the Corporations being Government autonomous Corporations, it is competent for the Government to indicate to them that, if possible, they should have business with each other instead going to private parties.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH : There is a difference between directive and preference. The H.S.L. has the great task of manufacturing steel for this country and I would be the last person to suggest that the steel production should suffer at a particular given moment because of any defect in supplies or even on account of a legitimate grievance or difference of opinion with another public sector corporation. I would also not insist that they must immediately buy only from the M.M.T.C. and not from others.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : May I ask the Minister if it is a justification for the so-called flexibility or, I should say, opportunism in the purchase of metals not from the M.M.T.C. but from other private concerns only because the Ministry wants to oblige Mr. Biju Patnaik and such other person ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you bring him here?

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Sir you kindly ask him to answer this question for this reason that the M.M.T.C. is a public sector undertaking. The Minister says that he does not purchase from the public sector undertakings because he wants to give autonomy to the steel concerns. The actual effect of this autonomy means an opportunity to be given to certain Ministries to oblige certain persons. May I know, Sir, whether this was not the case because Mr. Biju Patnaik was to be protected, encouraged and supported ? That is the only reason.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has explained autonomy. Let there be no further discussion on this.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I am happy that the Minister has information about the half-an-hour discussion. May I know whether in view of the reflection made by the Steel Minister that they have developed a dispute between the two public sector undertakings, he has enquired into it and whether he has also further enquired into the reasons why the M.M.T.C. could not compete and why they wanted to raise their rate when the private industrialists could supply at Rs. 16 ? Why was the difference there and why could the public undertaking not supply at Rs. 16 ?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH : There is no permanent dispute. At a particular moment of time when the M.M.T.C. has a large export order which they are obliged to fulfil, because they wanted to keep a stock-pile for the safety of a public sector industry if the H.S.L. management thought that something must be bought from outside, there should be no objection to that.

Even the Steel Minister said that he will have a second look because he is the buyer of this material.

IMPORTS FOR AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

•762. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI:
Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the value of imports required by the automobile industry annually; and

(b) the break-up in terms of basic raw materials and components ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA) : (a) About Rs. 53 crores.

(b) About 28 crores for basic raw materials including consumable stores, machinery spares, tools, dies, etc. and about Rs. 25 crores for components.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : May I know by which time self-sufficiency can be achieved in the automobile industry?

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: The automobile industry is developing the indigenous content. It will be very difficult for me to say what time it will take exactly but so far as one unit is concerned, it has reached 92 per cent, self-sufficiency.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : In view of the fact that nearly Rs. 63 crores are being spent for foreign import of components annually for this industry, the Government must have in their mind some duration within which they will see that self-sufficiency is reached. If there is a plan let them tell us of it.

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA: In view of the large demand of this growing industry, because it includes everything—even scooters—the D.G.T.D. are planning. They have a long series of components and are finding out how they can plan for ancillaries, etc. They are drawing up a manufacturing programme.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE : Is it a fact that the Ministry has permitted the automobile industry to increase the prices of cars and, if so, from what date ? At least some time is required to import the parts of the cars. May I know whether the industry has increased the price immediately after devaluation ? Will the Government look into the matter?

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA : There has been some increase. I do not have the figure with me just now. I gave these figures a few days back. It was Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 or so in the case of cars and Rs. 100 or so in the case of scooters. There have been some increases.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : May I know the amount of percentage of components imported by the different manufacturing concerns ? There are two or three such concerns and may I know whether it is not a fact that for a pretty long time the essential parts of the components, say 10 to 15 per cent which are the most vital parts of the automobile industry, are not going to be manufactured in India and this industry is going to be thoroughly dependent on the foreign imports and foreign firms ?

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA : It is not a correct statement. There is a long list showing what percentage of indigenous content the different makes of cars and scooters have. It is a long list. In some cases we have 90 per cent, self-sufficiency.

COL. B. H. ZAIDI : Will the hon. Minister tell us about the reduction in the value of imports from year to year during the last 5 years ?

SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA : As a matter of fact there is no question of reduction. The last year's figure we cannot give in so far as the car industry is concerned. The scooters and automobiles have been put in the priority list so that there is better production. So far as the car industry is concerned, there has been no allotment this year so far.