

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I do not think, Sir, that could really be a correct news.

'PERSANTIN' A CURE FOR CORONARY INSUFFICIENCY

*64. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new drug manufactured in West Germany by name—"Persantin" is considered to be effective to cure coronary insufficiency; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to import this drug for the heart-patients in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI P. S. NASKAR): (a) and (b) A statement giving the information is laid on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

'Persantin' a cure for coronary insufficiency

'Persantin' whose common name is 'Dipyridamole' is indicated in the treatment of various coronary diseases such as Coronary artery disease Myocardial infarction, heart failure etc. The drug claims to produce prolonged dilation of the coronary vessel and is claimed by the manufacturers to "produce a distinct and sustained improvement in the coronary blood flow and ensure ample oxygen supply to the myocardium". The drug is manufactured by Messrs. C. H. BOEHRINGER SOHN of West Germany.

This drug was clinically tried by investigators in this country and based on the reports of these trials, and those published abroad which indicated that the drug was of value in the treatment of cardiac failure, the Directorate General of Health Services granted permission to its import under Rule 30-A of the Drugs, Rules in April, 1964 to Messrs Qermar

Remedies Private Ltd., Bombay who had submitted an application for its import on a commercial basis. Messrs. German Remedies Private Ltd., is registered with the Directorate General of Technical Development and hence they have to obtain, apart from the permission under Drugs, Rules mentioned above, approval under the Industries (Development and Regulations) Act for increasing the range of the products manufactured by them.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know whether, in view of the reports after chemical trials by investigators in the country and also in view of the increasing number of heart patients, the Ministry has considered the desirability of manufacturing this drug in our country?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Well, Sir, as has been stated already, there is no conclusive proof so far that it is really better than some of the drugs that we have. Now the party which is importing this has asked for a licence for manufacture, and that is going through the usual course.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know what is the foreign exchange involved in the import of this drug by Messrs. German Remedies Private Limited, Bombay?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I am afraid I could not say how much foreign exchange is involved. I do not think it could be a substantial amount because the number of other drugs that are available are reported to be equally effective.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know whether any other agencies have applied for permission to import this drug?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Not to our knowledge, Sir.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Is there not a similar drug called Segontin going to

be manufactured in Bombay now-through Hoechst Chemical and Pharmaceutical Company?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Yes, Sir, there is this drug Segontin which the hon. Member has just mentioned and, as I said some other drugs also.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether any research was conducted about the efficacy of this medicine before giving a licence for the manufacture of the same?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Well, Sir, any drug that is allowed to be imported has undergone certain trials outside. Then the next stage is that we have certain trials within the country and we allow it only after we are satisfied about it.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: Why should there be this procedure for importing medicines of this nature or of any other nature in this country?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Well, Sir, it is very necessary to have certain procedures. Otherwise all the rubbish will be dumped into this country and our people will be treated as guinea-pigs for trying every new product on them.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: Sir, drugs are being manufactured in the U.K., the U.S.A. and other places and we do not seem to get those drugs. Doctors of eminence say that they cannot do their best . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Sapru, that is a comment.

Miss MARY NAIDU: May I know if this drug is prepared with the herbs exported from India?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I am afraid I cannot give the composition or the method of preparation of this drug. I have no information.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Has the Minister received any representation from the eminent doctors that on account of these restrictions they are not able to do their best?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: No, Sir. I am afraid there are a number of people who are liable to fall a victim to the large-scale propaganda that is carried out by the drug companies. They want to use a particular drug, whereas another drug which is equally effective and very much less expensive is available. I am sure hon. Members do not want us to play the game of those advertisers.

LABORATORY AT WAZIRABAD RESERVOIR

*65. SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item to the effect that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has very unsatisfactory laboratory arrangements to test water at the Wazirabad reservoir; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether Government have made sure that the test reports about pollution of water were reliable?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI P. S. NASKAR): (a) and (b). The Delhi Municipal Corporation does not have a laboratory at Wazirabad. Its laboratory is at Chandrawal Water Works and there is no reason to doubt the reliability of the results of the tests conducted by that laboratory.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Did the Ministry discover the condition of this laboratory, its inadequacy for testing, after reading the news-item or was it brought to its notice earlier?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: There is nothing wrong with the laboratory. The laboratory is performing tests.