

(b) what is the *per capita* consumption of electricity in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Mysore and Madras?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) 37.92 Kwh.

(b) *Per capita consumption* of electricity during 1961-62 (provisional) was as follows:—

1961-62

Andhra Pradesh	..	22.0 Kwh.
Kerala	..	34.8 Kwh.
Mysore	..	44.0 Kwh.
Madras	..	59.5 Kwh.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: Is it not a fact that the *per capita* consumption of electricity in Andhra Pradesh is the lowest of all the States in the Southern Region?

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: I cannot say without comparing it. I have got the list with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Probably the statement might help you.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: From the statement the Minister can tell.

\*19. [Postponed to the 29th August, 1962.]

#### ADULTERATION OF DRUGS IN THE COUNTRY

\*20. SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the adulteration of drugs is prevalent on a large scale in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) It is difficult to estimate the exact scale on which adulteration of drugs is prevalent in the country. Recently, however, there have been several reports regarding seizure of sub-standard drugs in some States.

(b) The question of strengthening the inspecting machinery and augmenting testing facilities is under consideration. The question of bringing forward legislation to provide for enhanced penalties and laying down minimum penalties to the offenders is also being examined.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Will the hon. Minister consider whether it is desirable for the Government to ban all these mushroom organisations producing medicines called pharmaceuticals, and take over entirely the manufacturing concerns for the medicines to be manufactured by the Government themselves, which are purely human needs?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: If the Government were to close down some of these mushroom concerns referred to by the hon. Member, perhaps the hon. Member would be one of the first to accuse the Government of taking away the means of earning their livelihood from the people . . .

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: No.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I wish to submit that out of 2,400 odd concerns there are only about 120 firms which are sizable concerns and, therefore, can be legitimately expected to have adequate facilities for the production of drugs. But the feeling has gone round among hon. Members and the public that drugs production is a means of earning a livelihood and everyday we are accused, "Why do you deny opportunities for the small men?" I wish that this opinion would

gain ground that drug production is an industry which concerns life and death and, therefore, the question of small men and big men should not be brought into it when licences are given.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Recently in Maharashtra certain concerns were producing distilled water which was found to be adulterated or something like that and there was a persistent demand that the names of those concerns should be published. But it was not done.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I am prepared to give them. The consignments of distilled water for injection seized in Maharashtra pertain to the following manufacturers:—

1. Messrs. Bengal Pharmaceutical Industries;
2. Messrs. Aryan Chemicals;
3. Messrs. Vitamin Laboratories, Calcutta;
4. Messrs. United Drug House Ltd.;
5. Messrs. A. C. Chakraborty's Laboratory;
6. Messrs. International Drug House Ltd.; and
7. Messrs. New Bio-Pharma Laboratories.

Besides these there are fourteen other concerns in Bengal which were also found to be sub-standard. If you will permit me, I shall read their names also.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that, apart from the concerns that she has mentioned, there is an underground racket for the manufacture of these spurious drugs and placing them in the market as genuine ones. This is a very serious and dangerous situation and only last week the existence of such underground factories was reported in the papers.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: What has happened is this. Some of these concerns have obtained ampoules of distilled water from other people at cheaper rates. In several houses the husband and wife, after cooking their food set up the distilling apparatus, they buy the rejected, cheap ampoules, and they fill these ampoules with home made distilled water and sell them to these concerns. The racket came to light because of the cheap prices. May I also submit that we have, on more than one occasion in some cases, brought to the notice of State Governments certain substandard manufacturing houses, and still action has not been possible against them for local reasons?

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Sir, this calls for very serious action on the part of the Government, since it involves the lives of many millions of people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that is an expression of opinion. Please put a question.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know whether the Health Ministry is prepared to take very serious notice of the situation prevailing in the country and what steps they are proposing to take to put an end to such malpractices in the country.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: My answer indicates that the Health Ministry is taking serious notice of drug adulteration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

#### APPLICATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES ACT TO RAILWAYS

\*21. SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen has demanded the application of the Industrial Disputes Act to the Railways; and