

SHRI GOVLNDA REDDY: May I know if the Government are not watchful of foreign businessmen coming here and trying to exploit our markets?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We are not particularly on the watch, but about exploitation if it comes to our notice, we are particularly watchful.

*196. [For answer, vide col. 1766 infra.]

*197. [For answer, vide col. 1767 infra.]

PENICILLIN BOTTLING PLANT

•198. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the difference in prices of penicillin after the penicillin bottling plant at Haffkine Institute Compound at Bombay starts working; and

(b) what percentage of the public requirements will be met by the said plant?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) The penicillin j bottling plant at Bombay started working on the 28th May 1951. The current prices of penicillin bottled at the plant as compared to the prices fixed initially, in May 1951. are on an average 30 to 40 per cent. less.

(b) About 18 per cent, is being met by this plant.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: May I know if Government have sent any officers for training in this penicillin factory?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I think the hon. Member's question relates to the penicillin bottling plant but- he wants information on the penicillin factory that is being set up at Pimpri. That subject is entirely different.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: May I ask whether any complaint had been received by Government about improper bottling of penicillin from this factory?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: No, Sir, there has not been any general complaint but there were one or two specific complaints and the mistakes were rectified.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: Are the Managers of this factory instructed that if any complaint comes from doctors they should pay proper attention and that they should not accuse the doctors of not knowing their work?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I am not aware of any such accusation being made against the doctors but the doctors go off the rails, certainly there is justification for its being pointed out.

DR. D. H. VARIAVA: I got such a letter from one of the Managers of this firm when I made a complaint about the bottling of penicillin. I will send that letter to the Minister.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Thanks for the information.

SHRI S. M. HEMROM: Is penicillin manufactured, in India?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Penicillin as such has not yet been manufactured in India. A factory is being set up at Pimpri for that purpose. What is being done now is that penicillin is being bottled in this plant.

SHRI S. M. HEMROM: Is there any scheme for the manufacture of penicillin in West Bengal?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Yes, Sir, there has been some scheme under the consideration of the West Bengal Government.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What has happened to the West Bengal scheme?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: That is under the consideration of the West Bengal Government.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Under consideration by the West Bengal Government, as also by the Government of India?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Yes, the West Bengal Government is considering a scheme for the establishment of a penicillin factory in West Bengal and, as I said, it is still under consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His question is: Is it under consideration by the West Bengal Government only, or is it also under the consideration of the Central Government?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: The Central Government comes in this way, that we have to give concurrence for any scheme under consideration for the starting of factory.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Do I understand that the West Bengal Government have not yet approached the Central Government in this matter?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: The whole matter is under consideration.

PROF. G. RANGA: It is most extraordinary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What he says is that it is under consideration between the two Governments.

PROF. G. RANGA: But then it must be having some eyes, some nose, some mouth, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When the formation is full he will relate to you the story.

*199. [For answer, vide col. 1767 infra.] j !

PRODUCTION IN PENICILLIN FACTORY

*200. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the penicillin factory was expected to go into production by the end of December 1953; and if so, what are the reasons for which it could not start production by that time; and

(b) when the factory is likely to go into production?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) Yes; a departure from the original time-schedule for production became necessary on account of certain unavoidable delays in firstly the receipt of plant and equipment from abroad and, secondly construction of buildings.

(b) It is now expected that the factory will be commissioned for initial production in about six months' time.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Six months from now, Sir?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Six months' time from now.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: In December it was expected that this factory would go into production by the end of April. Is it not so?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It is our endeavour to bring this factory into production at the earliest possible date but certain unavoidable difficulties crept in and we have had to change the time-schedule. In this case, the necessary plant and equipment could not be available to us by our collaborators, namely, UNICEF, and hence the delay.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Have all the plants now arrived?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Yes, Sir, most of them except a few outstanding items.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Now when we produce this penicillin will it meet the requirements of the country?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: 'Requirements' is not a static thing. The requirements grow and expand. It is expected that the production in this factory will meet largely the requirements of the country but I cannot say whether it will satisfy the requirements in full.