

I would, therefore, demand that the Ministry should review the conditions of facial recognition for issuing take home ration to beneficiaries and should simplify the procedure of issuing ration; the old system has transparency and verifications done through register, after getting beneficiary's signature. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri M. Shanmugam: Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu) and Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala).

Now, Shri B. Parthasaradhy Reddy- Concern over the reciprocal traffic imposed by the United States on Indian pharma exports.

Concern over the reciprocal tariff imposed by the United States on Indian Pharma Exports

SHRI B. PARTHASARADHY REDDY (Telangana): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you for having given me the opportunity. Today, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the most worrisome and immediate threat to the Indian Pharmaceutical industry owing to the US reciprocal tariff proposal which may come into force any time from now on. This could badly impact an industry which is very vital to our country's economy and there is an immediate job threat to over 30 lakh Indians. In 2023-24, India exported about nine billion dollars, that is, Rs. 74,000 crores, worth of pharma products to the US and exports are growing rapidly. This makes the U.S. the largest importer of Indian pharmaceutical products, accounting for over 31 per cent of India's total pharma exports. The Indian pharmaceutical industry, which is considered as pharmacy of the world, is likely to face significant challenges due to the US reciprocal tariff policy. Sir, Indian pharma products will become more expensive in the US market, which may result in substantial loss in the US market share for our Indian pharma companies. This could lead to reduced profit margins, especially for low-cost generic medicines, and they may become uncompetitive and most of their investments may not be viable. In terms of economic impact, the Indian pharmaceutical sector contributes significantly to India's GDP and foreign exchange earnings. The reciprocal tariff proposal could lead to foreign exchange revenue

declines and potential job losses affecting employment in manufacturing, research and distribution chain and we may suffer from competitive challenges.

Sir, as a scientist, I urge the Government of India, through this august House, to treat the matter on utmost priority and act aptly. A few remedial measures, our Government may consider include: (i) Engage in diplomatic talks with the U.S. Government to resolve the issue amicably; (ii) India can highlight the importance of pharmaceutical exports to the U.S. and explain the potential consequences such as cost hike of medicines, shortage of availability of life-saving medicines for U.S. patients; (iii) Pursue Free Trade Agreement with the U.S.; (iv) Review the US-India Trade Policy Forum to ensure that it is effective in addressing trade issues, including tariffs on pharmaceutical products; (v) Provide support to the Indian pharmaceutical industry such as special incentives, subsidies, tax-breaks or any other benefits to help them absorb the impact of US tariffs and become more competitive; (vi) Encourage Indian pharmaceutical industries/companies to develop new strategies such as operational efficiencies through automation, cost-optimization and more focus on R&D for technology upgradation; and (vii) Extend special financial support for pharma companies for R&D to develop new technologies and innovative molecules to compete globally. Sir, by considering the above remedies, the Indian Government can mitigate the impact of US reciprocal tariffs on Indian pharma products and safeguard the pharmaceutical industry from big danger. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri B. Parthasaradhi Reddy : Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju (Telangana), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Anil Kumar Yadav Mandadi (Telangana), Shrimati Sagarika Ghose (West Bengal), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu) and Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala).

Now Shri Vaiko, “Need to take steps to ensure safe disposal of Kudankulam Nuclear Waste in the State of Tamil Nadu.”

Need to take steps to ensure safe disposal of Kudankulam Nuclear waste in the State of Tamil Nadu

SHRI VAIKO (Tamil Nadu): Hon. Deputy Chairman, there was a proposal to establish atomic plant in Gujarat State in Bhavnagar, near Mithi-Virdhi village. At that time, the