

of Chemicals is finding it much more difficult to answer the technical aspect of the subject. About the life-saving drugs, we should have some deep common-sense. Without knowing the medical sciences also, we should have some common-sense. Take the case of tetanus, take the case of cancer which can be treated by chemotherapy, take the case of asthma; these are life-saving drugs used for these diseases. Will the hon. Minister categorically answer as to what was the cost of tetanus vaccine last year and what is the cost of tetanus vaccine now, what was the cost of Aronophylin injection/ tablet last year and what is the cost now, what was the cost of Adriamycin last year and what is the cost now? I know, the cost of particularly these drugs has gone up more than two hundred per cent. I want to know whether the hon. Minister will investigate the matter and give a concrete answer so that the indigenous drug manufacturers can make the formulation without depending on the multinationals abroad.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: If the hon. Member sends the list to me, I will certainly send a reply to him.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: During the last Session I had asked the Minister one supplementary question regarding the prices of drugs. He evaded the question and you assured me you would get me the answer. For your information, Sir, I have not got any answer from the Ministry...

MR. SPEAKER: So, far, you also sidetracked it! Why did you not inform me?

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Now, with your permission, I repeat that question. One of the most important factors for the rise in drug prices is that these companies are using the brand names of their own. They are not willing to use the generic names, and

the Government is now compelling them to use the generic names. Various consumer organisations have been repeatedly demanding use of generic names. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether his Ministry will take steps to compel the companies to use the generic names for medicines. If he is not aware of this, he can ask Mr. Vasant Sathe who was a member of the Hathi Committee.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He is a veterinary doctor.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: He is a veterinary doctor, Sir!

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Mr. Vasant Sathe or Dr. Bhoi?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I am not a doctor at all, either veterinary or otherwise.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: I have taken note of what the hon. Member has said. I will definitely send a reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOT-TAMBHAI PATEL: I would like to know whether it is a fact that manufacturers of drugs donate generously to the Congress fund following a steep hike in the drug prices?

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

[*English*]

#### **Irregularities in Accounts of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking**

\*86. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gross

operational irregularities in the accounts of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking pertaining to the period from September, 1985 to January, 1986 were recently pointed out by the auditors with the possibility of embezzlement/ misappropriation of Undertaking's money;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the amount involved; and

(c) whether any inquiry has been made into the irregularities pointed out by the auditors to fix responsibility and if so, the outcome thereof, stating the action taken/ proposed to be taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c). A statement is given below:

#### STATEMENT

(a) According to DESU, the Municipal Chief Auditor has, inter alia, observed on the Monthly Accounts of DESU for the period under reference that bank accounts for the months of September 1985 to January 1986 have not been reconciled so far and the accounts cannot be taken as complete. In the absence of the reconciliation, the position of debit and credit outstanding, collection outstanding and cheques outstanding could not be verified in audit. According to the Chief Auditor, in these circumstances, the possibility of any embezzlement/ misappropriation of the Undertaking's money could not be ruled out.

(b) and (c). The reconciliation of accounts is in progress and it would be possible to take necessary action after the details of the loss suffered by DESU, if any, have been ascertained on completion of the reconciliation work.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: The reconciliation of accounts for the period September 1985 to January 1986 was taken up only after it was pointed out by the Auditors. It means that there is some bungling in the accounts. Although the accounts pertain to 4 to 5 months only, yet they could not reconcile them, which indicates towards the possibility of embezzlement. Therefore, you must get it checked. Will the hon. Minister state whether the DESU accounts were audited earlier by another auditor and whether any discrepancies were found therein?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPANATH RAI): As soon as we got the complaint regarding the irregularity, a special task force was created and it was enquired into. From 1982 to 84, no discrepancy was found, this special task force has come to the conclusion that no discrepancy is found. From 1985 to 86 enquiry is going on; as soon as the Report is submitted, I shall let the House know and any wrong doing will be reported to the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what to say of submitting report, the hon. Minister even could not get the accounts reconciled although four-five months have since passed. It clearly indicates that there is some misappropriation or embezzlement in DESU's accounts. It appears from the reply of the hon. Minister that the people involved in embezzlement are being protected. That is why he could not get the accounts reconciled even after such a long time. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much estimated loss is

likely to be suffered by the DESU and by which time the entire accounts are expected to be reconciled and what are the specific reasons for delay?

[*English*]

**SHRI KALPNATH RAI:** During this financial year the Report will be submitted. I cannot say anybody to be guilty until and unless he is proved to be guilty. Therefore a special task force is enquiring into the matter and the moment any wrong is known, you will know about it.

**DR.G.S.RAJHANS:** Corruption is the order of the day in DESU. Whereas the consumers get inflated bills and despite several requests to look into the matter nothing is done, a large number of industrialists in Delhi are in connivance with the officers of DESU and the Bill given to them is to the tune of only Rs.50 or Rs.100. They get a very small Bill. Is the hon. Minister aware of this fact or is he prepared to look into the matter?

**SHRI KALPNATH RAI:** I admit wrong billings are there; I admit defective metres are there. During one month sixty persons have been arrested, one thousand theft cases have been detected and raids have been organised on the industrial houses and several people have been arrested and cases have been referred to the CBI.

I want to tell one point to my friend that transmission loss has been reduced and we are trying to improve the situation. The strongest action will be taken against all the culprits and wrong doers.

[*Translation*]

**MR.SPEAKER:** Sir, you are not even

accepting the facts. Shri Chandra Shekhara Murthy.... Shri Sreenivasa Prasad.... Shri Sriballavji.....

### **Construction Work On Power Projects**

\*88. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANI-  
GRAHI †:**  
**DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:**

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work of any new power projects has commenced in 1988;

(b) if so, the names of the projects and the progress till 30th June, 1988;

(c) whether there is any programme for commencement of the work of Talcher Super Thermal Power Plant and Ib Thermal Power Plant in Orissa during this year, if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE):** (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

### **STATEMENT**

(a) to (b). A list of major power projects started during 1988 and their status is given in the Annexure below.

(c) Yes, Sir; work on infrastructural development activities on both these projects have already commenced.

(d) Does not arise.