

and to the Health Minister to set up a branch of AIIMS in Calcutta to look after the health of the Calcutta people. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will consider this proposal. If it is not possible to set up a branch of AIIMS at Calcutta, then will the Government set up one hospital in Calcutta on the pattern of AIIMS?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, the responsibility about the state of health in Calcutta lies somewhere else and not with the Government of India. Even as it is, we are very conscious of the importance of Calcutta in various ways. We have a National Cancer Institute there; we have a National Institute of Homeopathy there, and every effort is being made to help the West Bengal Government, particularly Calcutta, in every possible way. So far as opening of a branch of the Institute is concerned, as I said, there is no such policy at the present time.

Price Decontrol of Drugs

401. **SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has recommended price decontrol of certain drugs falling under Category-I and Category-II;

(b) if so, the names of those drugs; and

(c) the basis on which the recommendation has been made?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):

(a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

This Ministry has not recommended price de-control in respect of any drug falling under Category-I of the Drug Price Control Order, 1987.

However, it had requested Ministry of Industry, Department of Chemicals and

Petro-Chemicals to consider de-control of 5 tranquilizers that featured in the list of Category-II of Drug Price Control Order, 1987. These tranquillizers are Diazepam, Flurazepam, Lorazepam, Nitrazepam and Oxazepam. The price of these tranquillizers was decontrolled by Ministry of Industry.

The Ministry made its recommendation on the ground that the tranquillizers are meant for symptomatic relief of anxiety and drugs for anxiety per se are not considered essential from the price control angle.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government had announced a policy relating to quality control and industry in 1986. It might be presumed that the whole cabinet has considered this matter. Now to say in the House that the Ministry of Industries is not saying this but the Department of Family Welfare is saying, that has no significance. In order to do avoid conjectures, I had written a letter to the then Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Vohra. The hon. Minister in his reply dated October 17, 1988, had stated that he realises the difficulties of this matter and I quote:

[English]

"I have received your letter dated October 1, 1988 regarding measures for rationalisation of quality control and growth of drugs and pharmaceutical industry in India. As you must be aware, a Committee has been set up by the Ministry to look into this problem.

I shall get the points raised in your letter referred to the Committee for consideration."

[Translation]

I am happy that a Committee has been constituted with Shri C.P. Thakur, Shri R. R. Sahu and other as members. Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what recommendations have been made by that committee. The prices of such drugs which fall under A/B category and

which are essential medicines should be controlled. Will the hon. Minister lay the report of that Committee on the Table of the House?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one such committee was constituted but its report has not been examined in full so far. The problem in case of drugs and pharmaceuticals is that it is the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals under the Ministry of Industry which issues licenses and considers decontrol and takes the advice of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the matter from time to time. That is why, we think that if we are dissatisfied with the report of one committee we might have to constitute a second one and if we are not satisfied with that also we might have to constitute a third one. Of course, it is better to constitute a single high-powered committee which should go into all aspects that the necessity to constitute other committees may not arise. I have explained the position in general. So far as this Committee is concerned, I will inform the hon. Members as soon as it submit its report and if it becomes necessary to lay it on the Table of the House, it can also be considered. But the report has not reached us so far.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the policy announced by the cabinet we are bound to think that there should be an unanimous opinion of all Departments in this matter. To day in the House that this comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Industries or of Family Planning creates anomalous situation, I feel that the hon. Minister should decide matters in the cabinet meeting and then only make it public. The hon. Minister of State in his reply to Unstarred Question No. 8795 has stated that prices of 60 drugs are decontrolled which come under National Health Programme. Since the Committee was yet to submit its report and House as well people were yet to know the recommendations of the committee, how, in the meantime, these 34 drugs were decontrolled with the connivance and at the behest of some drug manu-

facturers. I would like to know under whose direction was this decision taken and it should also be stated whether the cabinet was consulted before issuing decontrol orders and what are details of the advice sought?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned about one committee and decisions of the cabinet. I would like to say this much that suitable action will be taken after taking the entire situation into consideration. We are waiting for the submission of the Committee Report. The decision of the cabinet shall also be considered. The Ministry of Industries will also be consulted in this matter. We shall evolve such a policy which would satisfy all concerned.

[English]

SHRI D. N. REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have miserably failed to control the prices of almost all the essential drugs. I would like to know from the Government if they have got any plan to subsidise some of the essential drugs for the poor people of our country. Sometimes most of the prices of drugs have risen nearly 4 or 5 times more than what they were about five years ago. So, the poor are very much affected. The Government should have a plan to subsidise the drugs for the poor people.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, the price control is introduced for essential drugs which serves the purpose, which means at a reasonable price these drugs are available to the people at large.

As regards subsidising drugs as a whole, I do not think we should go in for that at the present moment because under the Government's health scheme, from the primary health centre upwards, from the sub-centre upwards, medicines are given completely free to those who make use of them. Most Government hospitals in Delhi and other places also give free medicines.

SHRI D. N. REDDY: It is not the case. In

most of the hospitals drugs are not available. At last they are not available in rural hospitals. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: We have a standard list of drugs which should be available in primary health centres. We give certain money to the State Governments and it is the duty of the State Governments to see that those drugs are kept in the primary health centres.

SHRI D. N. REDDY: They may be found in Delhi hospitals, but not in other places.

AN HON. MEMBER: Not even in Delhi. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, from the written answer of the Minister it is evident that the Ministry itself had recommended decontrol of tranquilisers to the Ministry of Industry on the ground that these tranquilisers are not essential drugs. Is the Ministry aware of the fact that the tranquilisers have been considered essential drugs not only by the World Health Organisation but also by the Kelkar Committee which the Government was good enough to appoint? Therefore, would the Government throw light on the manner in which they regulate the entire approach to decontrolling or controlling the prices?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, I have already said, it is the Ministry of Industry which controls or decontrol drugs. We have made a recommendation on technical consideration, as I have said in my answer. But, Sir, as I say, the Kelkar Committee says something, another Committee says something, so I am reviewing the whole procedure for controlling or decontrolling drugs, to the extent our responsibility lies in that, and we are going into the matter so that we have a high powered Committee which decides all these things once for all, not subtract at one place and add at another, but review everything, and we will try to formulate a policy which would be satisfactory.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 402 - Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why not club it with the next question? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Is that also the same as his?

[*Translation*]

Measures for Population Control

*402. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual rate of growth of population in the country during the years 1971 to 1989;

(b) the number of men and women who underwent sterilisation operations at the family planning centres in various States during the last three years and the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) to what extent these operations were successful; and

(d) the reasons for increase in population despite high rate of successful operations?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Annual Natural Growth Rate of Population based on latest available estimates from Sample Registration System of Registrar General, India during 1971-1987 is given in the Annexure below.

The number of vasectomy and tubectomy operations carried out in the country during the preceding three years viz. 1985-86 1986-87 and 1987-88 are as follows:—