

Tolbutamide Tablets

*239. **Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that patent rights have been given to a foreign firm of pharmaceutical manufacturers to manufacture Tolbutamide tablets for diabetes; and

(b) whether it is a fact that this has driven out of market indigenous manufacturers of Tolbutamide preparations and similar other anti-diabetes preparations and has led to the inordinate rise in the prices of such drugs?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) A number of patents covering processes for the manufacture of Sulphonyl Ureas including 'Tolbutamides' and pharmaceutical compositions have been granted to a number of foreign as well as Indian pharmaceutical manufacturers.

(b) As Indian manufacturers have also been licenced for manufacture of this drug and its formulations the question of the indigenous manufacturers being driven out of market does not arise. No complaints have been received regarding the increase in the price of this drug.

Export of Textiles to U.K.

*240. { **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**
Shri P. C. Borroah:
Shri P. K. Ghosh:
Shri Kapur Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to extend the textile agreement between India and U.K. for a further period of three years has been under negotiation for some time;

(b) if so, whether the agreement envisaged has since been finalised;

(c) if so, on what terms?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The present annual ceiling on the export of cotton piecegoods and made-ups from India for retention in the United Kingdom, viz. 195 million sq. yds. will continue upto the end of 1965. Besides the annual yarn exports from India to the United Kingdom will be limited to the 1961 rate viz. 11.5 million lbs. Government of India have also proposed that cotton textiles and yarn should continue to be imported into U.K. duty free and that a *pro rata* increase is made in the ceilings in the event of an overall increase in the import of cotton textiles and yarn into U.K.

Sale of Foreign Drugs

*241. **Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the prices now prevailing in the market for imported drug items like Vitamin powders and tablets of various groups—prednisolon, tetracycline—have gone up several times over international prices in recent months;

(b) what proportion of the country's demands for these drugs are met by imported patents belonging to these groups and what proportions are met by indigenous products; and

(c) how many foreign firms or foreign subsidiaries hold patent rights for these drugs and drugs of similar groups?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) In recent months, there has been no rise in the prices of finished preparations sold to the consumers.

(b) The total value of indigenously produced drugs amount to Rs. 85—90 crores per year as against an estimated import of Rs. 4-5 crores of finished