

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know how much money has not been utilised and has been kept un-spent which was allotted for this special purpose of irrigation in famine areas during the First and Second Five Year Plans?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: I will require notice.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government has introduced certain pilot schemes in every State and the States were asked to spend that amount from the State Plans, but they have refused any assistance from the Centre, and if that is so, whether they are going to revise their opinion and give extra allotment to areas where there is acute scarcity condition prevailing?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: They have not had any such information.

Shri Ranga: The Government have informed us in the past that they have constituted what is known as the National Calamity Insurance fund. Are we to understand that no provision is being made from out of that fund in order to help the people when they come to suffer from famine?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: As I said, it is the primary responsibility of the State Government to provide for scarcity areas. I am not aware whether the fund mentioned by the hon. Member has also been used for the purpose. If I am given notice, I can give information.

Shri Ranga: Is it not a fact....

Mr. Speaker: He does not know that.

Shri Ranga: They have themselves made a provision for Rs. 5 crores in this year's budget.

Mr. Speaker: He is not aware. He will kindly look into it.

Marking of Drug Prices on Cartons

***705 Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps to have the retail prices of drugs marked on the cartons;

(b) the manner in which Inspectors have been strengthened at (i) source and (ii) distribution ends; and

(c) the number of important cases of adulteration detected (i) by Central Inspectorate and (ii) State Agency during the last six months?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health (Dr. D. S. Raju) (a) No such step has been taken so far.

(b) (i) and (ii) There has been an increase in the strength of full time Drugs Inspectors in the various States and Territories from 96 (as on 31-3-60) to 142 at present. As there is only one set of qualifications laid down for Drugs Inspectors under Rule 49 of the Drugs Rules, it is left to the States/Administrations to employ the Inspectors so appointed on inspection of either the manufacturing establishments or the sale and distribution establishments according to the requirements.

(c) (i) As no Central Inspectors have been appointed so far, the question of the detection of adulteration does not arise.

(ii) A Statement showing the information available in respect of mis-branded and non-standard drugs is placed on the table of the House [Placed in library. See No. LT-1064/63]. There is no category of adulterated drugs at present.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The hon. Health Minister had given expression to great anxiety about doing something in regard to this matter. But from the statement today I find that Government have neither appointed the health inspectors in the Central sector or the drugs inspectors

in the Central sector, nor have they taken any steps for the indication of the prices in price-lists, particularly at the source where the medicines are manufactured. May I know how the Government explain the position?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): The appointment of the Central inspectors is under the examination of the Finance Ministry for a long time, and we have not been able to appoint them as yet. We felt that we might try to energise the State machinery as much as possible and see if that would lead to improvement. So far as the prices are concerned, we have issued orders under the Defence of India Rules under which an importer or wholesaler is expected to indicate the maximum price that the retailer may charge. Now, in actual practice, because of competition, they generally sell at much less than the maximum permissible limit. The fear was that if we indicated the prices on the labels at this stage, it might lead to the shop-keepers charging that price instead of selling it at less than that price. But, in any case, now they cannot charge beyond the maximum. So, exploitation cannot take place.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Except making certain brave statements on the floor of the House and outside, may I know what actual steps have been taken by the Ministry during the last six months to improve the position, and whether there are any indications to show that the position has improved?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: Quite a number of steps have been taken. We have organised special training for the inspectors from the various States. We have gone round and discussed the matters with the State Governments and written to them about it, so that the number of inspectors has increased in most of the States. Active steps are being taken by them to do a better job to ensure the quality control. The fact that the orders regarding the display of the prices have been issued

has resulted by and large in maintaining the prices of the drugs.

Shri D. C. Sharma: If the State Governments are being energised to look after these things, may I know what the functions of the Central inspectors in this respect are going to be, and what the allocation of duties between the Central Inspectors and the State agencies would be?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: That was exactly the point which was being discussed with the Finance Ministry. The functions of the Central inspectors are supposed to be to cut across the State boundaries and work on a zonal basis, because very often it happens that the spurious and sub-standard drugs are produced in one State but they are sold in another State, and when the movement takes place of the culprits from one State to the other, sometimes it becomes difficult to enforce the regulations because of the State boundaries. The Central inspectors will cut across the State boundaries.

Dr. Colaco: Have Government taken any steps to make the manufacture of drugs in the country less costly without detriment to their reliability?

Mr. Speaker: That would be another question.

पंजाब, दिल्ली तथा उत्तर प्रदेश
के लिए संयुक्त विद्युत् "पूल"

*७०८. श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री २२ नवम्बर, १९६२ के अतिरिक्त प्रश्न संख्या ७१३ के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पंजाब, दिल्ली तथा उत्तर प्रदेश राज्यों का संयुक्त विद्युत् 'पूल' बनाने के जिस प्रस्ताव पर विचार किया जा रहा था उसके संबंध में क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

सिंचाई व विद्युत् मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अल्लगेशन) : पंजाब की और दिल्ली की बिजली प्रणालियों को इकट्ठा करने के संबंध में अध्ययनों की एक रिपोर्ट तैयार की जा रही है। तात्कालिक परिस्थितियों