

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसी किस्म के सवाल पूछे जा चुके हैं और उन के जबाब भी दे दिये गए हैं।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या इस कमेटी को इस प्रकार की रिपोर्ट मिली है कि अस्पतालों के अन्दर जो दवाइयां पहुंचती हैं, वे वहां के कम्पाउंडरों, डॉक्टरों और अस्पताल के अन्य व्यक्तियों वगैरह द्वारा चोरी से बेच दी जाती हैं और जनता को मुसीबतों का सामना करना पड़ता है, और उन से कहा जाता है कि जाग्रो बाजार से दवाइयां लेकर आओ ?

डा० सुशीला नायर : कमेटी को तो रिपोर्ट पहुंच नहीं सकती थी क्योंकि कमेटी तो अभी कायम ही नहीं हुई है। अगर माननीय सदस्य के पास कोई ऐसी पत्रों खबर हो, तो वह मुझे भेज दें, और मैं जरूर छानबीन करवाऊंगी।

श्री प० ला० बाबूपाल : बहुत से अस्पतालों में ऐसा होता है।

Cost Reduction Cell

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*237. { **Dr. L. M. Singhvi;**
Shri Rameshwar Tantis;
Shri Bishanchander Seth;
Shri Dhaon;
Shri B. P. Yadava;

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1075 on the 16th April, 1964 and state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has established a cost reduction cell;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the scope of its work and the agencies through which it would function; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) to (c). The question of setting up a cell in the Planning Commission or in some other

organ of the Government to undertake cost reduction studies with particular reference to export promotion is still under consideration between the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Commerce. The nature and scope of the functions to be entrusted to the cost reduction cell, its staffing pattern and related matters are also under consideration.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: We would like to know when this proposal was first initiated and why it has taken so long to consider this matter.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The Ministry of Commerce wrote to the Planning Commission, I think, in January this year that the Planning Commission should take up this. In the beginning the Commission was reluctant to take this up because this matter should be studied in the Ministry of Commerce and the Planning Commission did not want to take up this work. But because of the element of co-ordination with various other Ministries, the Ministry of Commerce wrote back that it was better if this study was taken up by the Planning Commission. Various other matters relating to this have not yet been decided. It has not been possible to take a decision whether the Planning Commission or the Ministry of Commerce should take it up and what should be the scope of this study, etc.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: This is yet another case of passing the buck and not being able to take a decision. We would like to know the nature and details of the proposal which are under consideration of the Government and when the proposal is likely to be finally implemented?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I said that the proposal emanated from a meeting of the Board of Trade before which there was a question in respect of certain export items such as jute, textiles, oils etc. The Board of Trade wanted to study the entire question of the cost of export items, efficiency of functioning, capitalisation of the equipment, etc. so as to bring about a cost

reduction. That proposal was very comprehensive. As I said, we have not yet determined the scope of the study.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: We have the National Productivity Council in the Ministry of Industry and they try to increase efficiency in production and reduce production cost. What is the reason for having a new study like this?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I think I have given the reason for a new study like this. The National Productivity Council by its very nature cannot do this work.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मंत्री महोदय ने इस के संबंध में एक प्रश्न का उत्तर 16 अप्रैल, 1964 को दिया था और अब फिर छः महीने के पश्चात् भी इस मामले में कोई निर्णय सरकार नहीं कर पाई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि निर्णय कब तक हो जाएगा, क्या उस वक्त होगा जब चौथा प्लान भी बन जाएगा और रिडक्शन का सवाल नहीं रह जायगा ?

श्री ब० रा० भगत : हमेशा के लिए यह सवाल लागू है, और चाहे इस प्लान में हो और चाहे आगे के प्लान में हो, चीजों के दाम कम होने चाहियें, उनकी कास्ट कम होनी चाहिये। मैं कोशिश करूंगा कि जल्दी से जल्दी इस पर फैसला हो जाए।

श्री रामसेवक दाबड़ : माने वाली सरकार का भी ध्यान रखियेगा।

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: What is the function of this cell? Are the industries in this private and the public sectors to be examined and their production methods studied in order to bring about reduction in cost. Is it for this purpose that the cell is to be formed?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I said the scope is also to be determined. So, this question will come later on.

Shri Warlor: May I know whether the question of economic price for

the raw materials produced especially in the agricultural sector, and are exported, will also be linked up with the consideration of the question of cost of production?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: All aspects of the present policy which go into the cost and the items which go into the export will come in, but at this stage, it is too premature to say anything about it.

Shri Alvares: In view of the experience of runaway costs in the consumer industries in this country, will the Government consider the extension of this control to such industries also and not confine it to the export promotion aspect?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: That is too large a question for this, but certainly all runaway costs have to be brought down; as a proposition it is accepted.

श्री बूटा सिंह : क्या ये प्रभिकरण के माध्यम राजकीयों पर ही सीमित होंगे या भ्राराजकीयों पर भी ?

श्री ब० रा० भगत : सभी चीजों पर होंगे, जो यहां पैदा होती हैं या बनाई जाती हैं।

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Apart from the commodities for export, may I know whether the Planning Commission has taken note of the fact that the general manufacturing cost or the cost of production here is more than that elsewhere, outside the country, and, if so, what action has the Planning Commission taken so far in order to look into this?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The question of cost reduction as a whole?

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: I mean the manufacturing cost.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: As a general question, it is always before our mind, but no specific steps or studies have been taken by the Planning Commission.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: My question is, what action has been taken so far, because the cost of what we manufacture or produce in this country is always much more than what we get elsewhere, in many other countries in the world. So what action does the Planning Commission propose to take in this regard?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The question itself relates to a particular suggestion made in the Board of Trade in regard to certain commodities which have an export aspect. While what the hon. Member says is true, I do not think this question would deal with what he has in mind.

Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj: May I know, in case it is thought advisable to have a cost reduction cell, whether it will be created from the surplus staff of the Government or whether it will be entirely a new additional cost to the Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The advisability or otherwise is a matter which has to be ultimately determined by Government. But the suggestion made in the Board of Trade has been accepted by the Ministry of Commerce. The matter that is now under investigation is who is to do it and how to do it. That has to be settled first, and questions whether it can be done by the existing administrative staff or through a new cell or whether we should hand it over to particular agencies will all come in later on.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether the Government is of opinion that there is necessity and scope for a cost reduction, or they are only setting up this cell to find out whether there is scope and necessity for it? What is the position of the Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think it is recognised on all hands that there is necessity to reduce costs particularly in those items which have

an export characteristic about them. But the scope is a thing which has to be determined by the investigation.

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: Now that the Planning Commission has accepted the cost reduction study with reluctance, may I know how much time it is expected to take to complete this study?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It does not exactly seem that the Planning Commission has accepted this onerous responsibility as the hon. Member has indicated. The whole idea whether the cell is to be located is still under discussion.

Economic Development of Small Towns

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*238. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**
Shri B. P. Yadava:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri Dhaon:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared a draft Plan for the economic development of small towns in the hill areas and have forwarded it to the States;

(b) if so, whether any reply has been received from the States;

(c) what are the main points of the draft plan; and

(d) when the final plan will be formulated and put into action?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) and (b). No, Sir. A Committee had been appointed to study the problems of small towns in the Hill and Border areas at the instance of Central Council of Local Self-Government. A Statement (No. I) is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3151|64].

(c) A statement (Statement No. II) is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3151/64].