

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Yes, Sir, we do.

Drugs and Antibiotics

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*307. **Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:**
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 644 on the 24th August, 1966 and state:

(a) the steps taken to accelerate the production of drugs and antibiotics in the Third Five Year Plan Period;

(b) whether their prices have increased after devaluation; and

(c) when the country would become self-sufficient in the matter of drugs and antibiotics?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Iqbal Singh): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Based on the trends in consumption, health programmes undertaken by the Government of India and developments taking place in the chemical industry to meet the raw material requirements, targets for production have been drawn up for implementation. Based on these, indigenous production has been and is being established in the country. In addition the production of various essential drugs including antibiotics are also being taken up in the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., a public sector undertaking. The two units of the company, namely, Antibiotics Project, Rishikesh and Synthetic Drugs project, Hyderabad are expected to go into production by the end of 1966. All steps are being taken to speed up their completion. In addition to these units, the capa-

city for production of essential drugs is being expanded in the Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pimpri, another public sector undertaking.

(b) There does not appear to be any general increase in the prices of drugs consequent on devaluation. Under the Drugs Prices (Display and Control) Order, 1966, prices of drugs cannot be increased without the prior approval of Government.

(c) It is anticipated that when all the public sector units work in full production and by the end of the Fourth Plan, the country would be more or less self sufficient in most of the essential drugs.

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy: In the statement it is mentioned "targets for production have been drawn up for implementation." May I know the target which has been drawn up for the Third Plan and whether any steps are being taken to reduce the imports and, if so, to what extent?

Shri Iqbal Singh: Imports have already been reduced to a large extent. From Rs. 11 crores in 1961-62 it has now come to Rs. 6 crores. So, internal production is increasing and imports are being reduced.

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy: May I know whether the two projects at Rishikesh and Hyderabad have already started production? What is the amount invested in them and what is the reason for the inordinate delay in their going into production?

Shri Iqbal Singh: In the initial stages there was some delay in the implementation of these projects. Now they will start production next month or in the beginning of January

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Is the hon. Minister aware that while some of the drugs which are very essential are not available, other imported drugs are in bulk supply, more than our requirements? What would be the position after these three factor-

ies go into production in 1966? What percentage of our requirements will be met by them?

Shri Iqbal Singh: As I have already mentioned, our total production of drugs last year was Rs. 150 crores, compared to which our imports amounted to only Rs. 6 crores. It will go down further as our two factories go into production.

श्री बिश्वनाथ पाण्डेय : मंत्री महोदय ने अभी जो विवरण सदन के पटल पर रखा है उसके संदर्भ में मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारतवर्ष जड़ी-बूटियों में भरपूर है और देशी दवाइयाँ उन से बहुत उत्तम बन सकती हैं तो क्या सरकार कोई कारखाना इस तरह का स्थापित करना चाहती है जिसमें कि इन जड़ी-बूटियों के द्वारा देशी औषधियाँ तथा योगानुषाणी पदार्थ उत्पन्न किये जा सकें ?

श्री इकबाल सिंह : देशी दवाइयाँ, प्राइवेट आदि पाटियाँ तैयार करती हैं और जो भी सहूलियत व मदद इसके लिए उनको दरकार होती है वह सब संभव मदद व सहूलियत उनको दी जाती है लेकिन गवर्नमेंट खुद ऐसी देशी दवाइयों के बनाने के लिए कोई कारखाना नहीं कायम कर रही है ।

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: Our drugs and anti-biotics industry requires to be research-based, and research is possible only in the public sector, Government institutes and Indian concerns with foreign collaboration. May I know whether Government have formulated a definite policy that in future foreign collaboration will be allowed only if they have research-based industries and not otherwise? At the same time, have they initiated large-scale research in this direction

in the public sector plants and Government institutes?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Alegesan): In the Hindustan Anti-biotics at Pimpri we have got a very good research wing. It has done good work and discovered several new medicines like Hamycin, Antiamoebin, Streptocycline and Aurofungin. The latter two are very useful as insecticides. The foreign companies have been attracted by these discoveries and they have taken patents so that they shall be able to sell them and give us royalty. So, we have paid sufficient attention to see that proper research is carried out. There are one or two private institutions also which carry out drug research.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: The Minister has given a wrong reply.

Mr. Speaker: Then he can write to me that it is wrong. I will have that looked into. But, at this moment, if there is confrontation that it is wrong or right, I cannot decide it.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: It is wrong information.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Since he knows the correct information, he might write to me that this is wrong.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Supplementing the question put by my hon. friend, Shri Kashi Ram Gupta, may I know what progress has been achieved in basic or fundamental research, which is necessarily required for making progress in anti-biotics and other life saving and very important drugs?

Shri Alegesan: There is the Central Drug Research Institute under the Education Ministry which is doing basic research.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: In part (b) of the statement it is mentioned.

"Under the Drugs Prices (Display and Control) Order, 1966,

prices of drugs cannot be increased without the prior approval of Government."

Is the Government not satisfied that it is more honoured in its breach than in its observance? Is it not a fact that the prices of drugs have gone up in various parts of the country in spite of the fact that this Order is there? What steps do the Government take to ensure that the prices do not rise?

Shri Alagesan: I am sorry, the hon. Member has got a wrong impression. In fact, I should say that while the prices have gone up in every field, the prices of drugs and medicines have been pegged at the level at which they obtained in April 1963. The prices of most of the drugs have not risen; they have been kept down to that level, despite the industries agitating for a higher price on the ground that other industries have raised their prices and the cost of their own raw materials has gone up. The prices of drugs and medicines have, by and large, been pegged down to the level which obtained in April 1963. So far as new drugs are concerned, we take care of them when they come for licensing.

Dr. Karni Singhji: May I know if adequate control has been introduced in the manufacture of anti-biotics within the country and whether as a result of that the incidence of allergic reactions has been reduced?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, I should think so. There are adequate arrangements for quality control.

Shri Joachim Alva: It is stated that the import of drugs has been reduced to Rs. 6 crores a year. But have they taken into account the remittances made by the monopolistic foreign firms in India? Have they kept a check on that? Have they drawn up a programme to see that these remittances will be stopped and the activities of our public sector pharmaceutical plants are

increased so that we shall be self-sufficient?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, Sir, there are half a dozen foreign firms whose capital is entirely, cent per cent, foreign owned and they repatriate their profits which means outgo of foreign exchange. But wherever cent, whether it is 100 per cent or 80 per cent we have insisted that it should be brought down to 60 per cent. We have succeeded in several cases. That will, by and large, reduce the foreign exchange outgo in this field.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार ने इस बात पर गौर किया है कि करोड़ों रुपये खर्च करने के बाद भी जो हम इस मामले में कुछ कर नहीं सके तो उसका कारण है नौन-टैकनिकल लोगों के हाथ में इस मुहकमे का दिया जाना। दरअसल यह मुहकमा उन लोगों के हाथ में होना चाहिए जिन्होंने मैडिकल साइंस पढ़ी है। इस मुहकमे को दे रखा गया है इंजीनियर्स के हाथ में बिलकुल ऐसे जैसे कि पालियामेंट का काम आप किर्या पहलवान को सौंप दें या बिलकुल ऐसे जैसे सुप्रीम कोर्ट का काम किसी डाक्टर को सौंप दिया जाय इसलिए जब तक यह काम इंजीनियर्स से लेकर अर्थात् इस डिपार्टमेंट को इंजीनियर्स से लेकर डाक्टर्स के हाथ में नहीं दिया जायेगा तब तक आप इसमें कुछ नहीं कर सकेंगे ?

Shri Alagesan: He seems to imagine that lay people are concerned with the manufacture of drugs and medicines, which is not the case. Very competent technical people are put in charge of the manufacture of these drugs.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Shri Indrajit Gupta... Absent; Shri D. C. Sharma... Absent. Next question. Shri Samanta.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Question No. 309.

Shri Khadilkar: Sir, I rise on a point of order regarding the admissibility of this question.

Mr. Speaker: That cannot be questioned now, when it has been put down on the Order Paper. If it had not been allowed, it would have been a different thing.

Shri Khadilkar: If, under the Rules of Procedure, it is wrongly allowed..

Mr. Speaker: I cannot decide at this moment that it should be taken out.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Your judgement cannot be questioned like this.

Mr. Speaker: Is it only a precept or the practice also?

School of International Studies

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- *309. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Dr. M. M. Das:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian School of International Studies is still denying students the option to do research work in Hindi and other languages of India by imposing various restrictions on them;

(b) whether the School is still insisting that, if the research material is not available in the language of option, students will not be allowed to do research work in that language;

(c) whether it is a fact that even when research guides and teachers in a particular language are not in the employment of the School, the research work is not permitted in the School in the language of the choice of a student; and

(d) whether the School is prepared to mould itself according to the needs of the time?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Education (Shri Bhakt Darshan): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) and (d). The Academic Council of the School has already decided that English shall be the medium of instruction, examination and research at the School. The Board of Research Studies may, however, at its discretion, permit students of the School to write the thesis in any language other than English, provided it can find a competent supervisor and examiners for examining the thesis in the language of the thesis.

No case has arisen so far for the Board of Research Studies of the School to consider a request in terms of the above decision.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it true that one of the examinees of this institute answered his papers in Hindi and his case has not been considered as yet and no results have been given out? If that is not the reason, namely, that he wrote it in Hindi, what is the reason for delay in publishing his results?

Shri Bhakt Darshan: As I have already stated in reply to the main question, no such case has come to the notice of the authorities. If any case is brought to our notice, we can look into it.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it a fact that yesterday or day before yesterday a seminar of this institute was held in Sapru House and one student of this institute was turned out because he was speaking in Hindi in the seminar?

Shri Bhakt Darshan: I have no information about this, but if the hon. Member writes to me I will make enquiries.