

Pimpri Penicillin Price

*455. { **Shri Rameswar Tantia:**
 { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pimpri bulk penicillin price is now about five times the world market figure;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) whether this conforms to the agreement with the World Health Organisation for selling products on a no-profit no-loss basis?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The selling price of bulk penicillin at Hindustan Antibiotics, Pimpri, is no doubt higher than the landed cost of the imported drug. Such a comparison does not offer a fair basis for judging the cost of Pimpri penicillin as the exporters could afford to sell their exportable surplus at very low prices. Apart from this, the industry abroad functions on a much larger scale and could therefore produce the product at appreciably lower costs. "No profit" clause in the agreement with W.H.O. and UNICEF is no longer in force but no undue profits are being made because of this.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: It has been mentioned that the prices are no doubt high. I want to know to what extent they are higher. I also want to know the foreign exporters from whom we are importing this drug. They have to pay higher labour and transport charges. What are the reasons for our selling at more than the price at which we are importing it? Then, I want to know....

Mr. Speaker: He cannot combine so many questions in one.

Shri Kanungo: The reasons are obvious. The manufacturers in other countries have been in the field for quite a long time. They have large internal markets where they are able to get higher prices. For promotional purposes they can sell in export at much lower prices. The cost of production is not known neither in the country of origin nor elsewhere. We hope that when our expansion programmes are completed, we are likely to produce about 90 tons of penicillin. There will be further reduction of the price. In fact, there has been considerable reduction during the last three years. It will be more when our volume of production is increased.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: To what extent are the prices higher? Are they double or treble?

Shri Kanungo: Our prices are about 50 nP per unit and the imported ones cost 15.50 nP. plus duty.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: In the statement it has been stated that "No profit" clause in the agreement with the WHO and UNICEF is no longer in force but no undue profits are being made because of this. I would like to know the extent of the profit charged.

Shri Kanungo: I have mentioned the prices. No profit clause has been removed on consideration that a certain number of units are to be given free for use in hospitals.

Shri Umanath: May I know whether the Government are aware that the penicillin and other anti-biotics supplied by the Pimpri factory in bulk to foreign and Indian companies are resold in different trade names at fantastically high prices and, if so, may I know the measures taken by the Government to check it?

Shri Kanungo: The prices are not fantastically high. In fact, the Pimpri factory produces to sell the basic material to the other formulators. The Drug Controller sees to the quality; and the prices are not fantastic.

Shri Umanath: My question was...

Mr. Speaker: I have called the hon. Member from the other side.

Shri M. L. Jadhav: May I know whether the Government are aware that there is a shortage of penicillin supply in the country?

Shri Kanungo: There is, because the demands have grown higher and therefore we are undertaking expansion of the production in this factory.

Shri Umanath: May I know whether the Indian and foreign firms who receive bulk supplies from Government resell it in different trade names at higher prices?

Shri Kanungo: Of course, they charge formulation prices.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know what is the extent of profit that is being charged?

Shri Kanungo: I cannot disclose the profit in the plant.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. **Shri Raghunath Singh:**

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : प्रश्न संख्या ४५६ ।

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): The permit system for entry into Goa....

Shri Raghunath Singh: My question is in Hindi; the reply should be given in Hindi. यह सवाल हिन्दी में दिया गया है। माननीय मंत्री हिन्दी स्टेट से आती हैं। हिन्दी में जवाब देना चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : हाउस ने उस बारे में पहले ही फसला किया है, और मैं ने भी यहां पर अर्ज किया है कि अगर सवाल हिन्दी में होगा, तो आम तौर पर हिन्दी में जवाब दिया जायेगा, लेकिन अगर मिनिस्टर हिन्दी में जवाब नहीं दे सकते, तो माननीय सदस्यों को अंग्रेजी में ही जवाब को समझने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए।

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: i can read it in Hindi.

गोम्रा में प्रवेश

*४५६. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत सरकार के गोम्रा प्रवेश सम्बन्धी नवीन आदेशों के कारण गोम्रा के मूल नागरिक जो केन्या, युगांडा आदि में रहते हैं उन्हें गोम्रा प्रवेश करने में कठिनाई हो रही है क्योंकि पुर्तगाल सरकार उनको पासपोर्ट देने में इन्कार करती है ; और

(ख) क्या सेंट्रल काउन्सिल आफ गोम्रा अन्र्नामियेशन, युगांडा, पूर्व अफ्रीकन लीग तथा अन्य संस्थाओं में इस सम्बन्ध में जापन अथवा संकल्प मिले है ?

विदेश-कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्रीमती लक्ष्मी मेनन) : (क) गोम्रा में प्रवेश करने के लिए जो अनुमति-पत्र प्रणाली है, उसका प्रार्थी के पास रहने वाले पासपोर्ट से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है। यह प्रणाली भारतीय नागरिकों सहित सभी गैर-गोम्राणियों पर लागू होती है। यदि कोई विदेशी पासपोर्ट पाने में असमर्थ है तो इसका अर्थ यह है कि वह भारत नहीं आ सकता। अनुमति-पत्र प्रणाली से इस मामले पर किसी भी तरह असर नहीं पड़ता।

(ख) अनुमति-पत्र प्रणाली के व्यौरों के सम्बन्ध में उगांडा स्थित केन्द्रीय गोम्राणी परिषद् संस्था और कीनिया की पूर्व अफ्रीकी गोम्राणी लीग से कुछ जापन मिले हैं। उन्हें यह सूचना दे दी गई है कि गोम्रा-मूलक लोगों के लिए किसी अनुमति-पत्र की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

श्री ज० ब० सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हिन्दी सीखने में ही हाउस का तारा समय निकल जायेगा।