

LOK SABHA DEBATES

1253.

LOK SABHA

Friday, April 27, 1962/Vaisakha 7,
1884 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri Matcharasa Matcharaju (Narasipatnam)

Shri Salam Tombi (Inner Manipur)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Central Institute for Drug Checking

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*223. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 { Shri Shree Narayan Das:

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

(a) the progress made so far in implementing the assurance given by Government for setting up a Central Institute to re-check the quality of drugs produced by the public sector units; and

(b) the steps taken by the Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., to improve the quality of its products?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a). The establishment of a Central Drug Recontrol Institute is still under
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consideration in consultation with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

(b) The products of the Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. are subject to rigorous tests according to standards laid down by the Drugs Act and Rules thereunder; the tests are carried out in the quality control laboratory of the Factory.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Is there any truth in a recent report that a fly or some kind of a matter was found in some injection manufactured by the Hindustan Antibiotics?

Shri Kanungo: It is a very ancient story. It has been discussed in both the Houses.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know the details of the scheme and by which time it is going to be finalised?

Shri Kanungo: For the time being, the scheme will be confined to the public sector projects of drugs only. As the four drug manufacturing plants are still in the process of building, the Institute will take a little time to come along.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is there any machinery to ensure that the quality of drugs offered for sale in the market is the same as the quality of the drugs manufactured in the factory, that is to say, there is no adulteration thereof?

Shri Kanungo: Of course. The drugs or at least those manufactured in the public sector projects are bottled and the packing is so fool-proof that it could not be opened.

Shrimati Vimla Devi: Has it come to the notice of the Government that large quantities of sub-standard

medicines are distributed, sometimes with fatal consequences, and if so what are the steps taken by the Government?

Shri Kanungo: It depends. There is an organisation of the Drugs Controller which examines all types of drugs which are issued in the market by the various manufacturers. He has rights to seize and take whatever steps as provided by the Drugs Act passed by this Parliament.

Shri Umanath: May I know whether the Government contemplates any severer statutory provisions in the cases referred to in the previous question?

Shri Kanungo: If any provision is thought of, it will be brought in the form of a Bill.

Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference

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| *234. { | Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: |
| | Shri Raghunath Singh: |
| | Shri D. N. Tiwary: |
| | Shri M. L. Dwivedi: |
| | Shri S. C. Samanta: |
| | Shri Shree Narayan Das: |
| | Shri Basappa: |
| | Shri Venkatasubbaiah: |
| | Shri Liladhar Kotoki: |

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) when the next meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers will be held; and

(b) the venue of meeting?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) It has been suggested that the next meeting might take place on 10th September for about a week.

(b) London.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: At the last Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, it was agreed that the next meeting would be either in India or in Canada. May I know

the reasons for not sticking to that agreement? May I take it that the future meetings would be at the different capitals of the Commonwealth countries?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: To begin with, I do not know whether there was an agreement regarding the venue of the next Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether this meeting would be exclusively to discuss Britain's entry into the European Common Market or whether the Prime Minister is also inclined to raise the question of racial discrimination arising out of the Immigration Act passed by the United Kingdom?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Usually, there is no agenda for these conferences. This meeting is specially called to discuss Britain's entry into the European Common Market. At such meetings, the international situation is also discussed.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether India is going to suggest any item for the agenda of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have stated that there is no agenda.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether Government are aware of the fact that some Commonwealth countries including Pakistan have made a request to the British Prime Minister to include the pattern of negotiations that U.K. had with the other members of the European Common Market, and if so, what the reaction of our Government is to this request made by those Commonwealth countries?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I think the hon. Member knows more about these negotiations than I. I do not know what suggestions the other countries have made to the United Kingdom.