

### Prices of Patent Medicines and Baby Food

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\*574. { Shri Anirudh Sinha:  
Shri Damani:  
Sardar Iqbal Singh:  
Shri Mohan Swarup:  
Shri P. G. Deb:  
Shri Subbiah Ambalam:  
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that due to import restrictions, the prices of patent medicines and baby food have gone high in the country in general and in the Capital in particular; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A close watch is kept on the price trends and remedial measures, if considered necessary, will be taken at the appropriate time depending upon the essentiality of the item.

Shri Anirudh Sinha: May I know the Government are aware that some doctors, in the name of patients, have indented baby foods from local manufacturers and thus it has fed the black-marketeers?

Shri Kanungo: It is a fortunate fact that the indigenous production of baby foods and milk powder is increasing. Whether the medical practitioners resort to this practice will be better known to the State Governments.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhari: May I know if Government have recently given permission to the manufacturers of Horlicks and Nestles Milk etc. to start a plant here to manufacture baby foods and milk powder?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): That is a fact. Recently we have approved five schemes—two Indian schemes and three foreign schemes—for manufacturing the entire range of baby foods.

Shri M. E. Krishna: May I know what is the quantity of baby foods that were allowed to be imported by the Canteen Stores Department for the defence personnel and whether any cut has been imposed on the import?

Shri Manubhai Shah: We have no figures for the Defence Canteen Stores. During the current year, about Rs. 40 lakhs worth of baby food has been allowed to be imported under the import policy.

श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह: क्या गवर्नमेंट के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि डिब्बों में बन्द फलों और सब्जियों के दाम देनी निर्माताओं ने विदेशी प्रतियोगिता के प्रभाव में इतने बढ़ा दिये हैं कि जनसाधारण को बड़ी दिक्कत हो गई है? यदि हाँ, तो सरकार इसके बारे में क्या कुछ करने का सोच रही है?

श्रीलक्ष्मण तथा उद्योग मंत्री (श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री): यह बात ठीक है कि इन दवाइयों इत्यादि के दाम कुछ ज्यादा बढ़ गये हैं . . . .

श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह: डिब्बों में बन्द फलों तथा सब्जियों के भी।

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री: इन चीजों से इस सवाल का सीधा सम्बन्ध तो नहीं है। यह तो सिर्फ दवाइयों पर और बेबी फूड पर सवाल है। सब्जियाँ बगैरह इसमें कैसे आ सकती हैं, मैं नहीं समझ सका हूँ। लेकिन जहाँ तक मैडिमेम तथा बेबी फूड बगैरह का ताल्लुक है, कीमतें कुछ ज्यादा बढ़ी हैं। दूसरे शहरों में भी मैंने देखा है और फिगरम को भी कम्पेयर किया है लेकिन बहुत ज्यादा अन्तर नहीं है। यह बात जरूर है कि दिल्ली में जास तौर पर कीमतें बहुत बढ़ गई हैं। जैसे अभी मेरे साथी ने कहा कि हम पांच फैंक्ट्रियाँ बनाने जा रहे हैं। एक दो पर तो काम करीब करीब पूरा हो चुका है। एक नामा में होगी, दूसरी पटियाला में, और

घोसरा प्रलीगड में । उससे इसमें सहूलियत होगी । लेकिन मैं ने जो फिगरस देली हूँ उनको देखने से पता चला है कि दाम बढ़े हैं दिल्ली में और मैं समझता हूँ कि कुछ कास कदम उस तरफ उठाने होंगे और हम खोग इस पर विचार करेंगे कि कौन से कदम उठाये जा सकते हैं ।

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** May I know what was the total quantity of baby food imported into this country before these restrictions were imposed and in view of the fact that babies have very little choice in food, may I know whether a liberalisation of the import policy is being considered in this regard?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** When there was no import restriction of a very rigid nature, the annual quantity imported was about Rs. 1,70,000 worth. Then there has been a recent cut of about 40 per cent. As I have already indicated, in the half year during the current year, about Rs. 40 lakhs worth of baby foods have been allowed to be imported. It is not possible to allocate more foreign exchange for baby food.

#### Manufacture of Sulpha Drugs

\*575. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of indigenous manufacture from the primary raw materials of the following Sulpha Drugs:

- (1) Sulpha Analanude
- (2) Sulpha Thivzob
- (3) Sulpha Guivanidive
- (4) Sulpha Merazine
- (5) Sulpha Pyredive; and

(b) what is the position of foreign firms in their manufacture?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). A note is placed on the Table of the Lok

Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 22.]

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** From the statement, it is seen that no sulphur drug has been produced so far from the primary products. May I know when we can expect these drugs to be produced from the indigenous primary products here?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** As I told the House the other day, we are currently negotiating with the Russian, American, British, German and Italian firms, and it is hoped that by the end of this year, practically all preliminary projects for the preparation of these drugs will be ready, and in the next three years, by the end of the Second Plan, or by the beginning of the third Plan, most of the products will be made in India from the intermediates, the basic and the primary raw materials.

**Shri Tangamani:** In the statement we find that there are now two important firms which are producing these sulphur drugs: one being a foreign firm and the other an Indian firm in collaboration with the foreign firm. May I know the names of these firms and the capacity which they are now having for the production of these drugs?

**Shri Manubhai Shah:** One is Atul, which is a combine with American Cynamide. The other is May and Baker. The capacity of Atul is 16,232 tons and that of May and Baker is about 36.7 tons.

#### Arrest of Sheikh Abdullah

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\*576. { **Shri S. M. Benerjee:**  
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**  
**Shri Supakar:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether India lodged a protest with the U.N. Security Council on the 11th June, 1958 against the letter sent on May 6 by the permanent representative of Pakistan to the U.N. to the