

actual expenditure of about Rs. 8 lacs has been incurred up to the end of 1952. The cost to be incurred by the U.N.I.C.E.F. on importing machinery and equipment is estimated at Rs. 40,46,000.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that in view of this Government penicillin factory, Government have put a ban upon the import of penicillin producing machinery by private companies?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am not aware of any such thing, but I would like to have the matter verified.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of Government not to encourage any penicillin producing factory by private companies in view of this Government factory?

Shri K. C. Reddy: That is not the correct position, Sir. If any such private party or any State Government comes forward to establish a penicillin factory, apart from the one which we are now trying to establish, that will be taken into account. The country's requirements, the production that we expect in our factory—all these factors have to be kept in mind and then we have to arrive at a decision. There is no absolute ban of the kind that is suggested by the hon. Member.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what is the estimated requirement of Penicillin in the country at present and what percentage of this will be met when the factory goes into full production?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Well, Sir, I cannot say what is the estimated requirement of penicillin in our country. Estimates vary. Even the estimates of experts vary to such a large extent that I cannot commit myself to any definite figure. But the production of the proposed Penicillin Factory will meet the requirements only partly and not entirely.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I also know, Sir, the estimated price at which this factory will be able to sell penicillin in India?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is too early to give a definite figure Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May we at least know, Sir, whether it will be possible to sell penicillin at considerably cheaper rates?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is hoped so, Sir.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): That is the whole basis of the factory. Otherwise there is no point in running the factory.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How can you give the estimate unless it is actually there?

FIRING BY PAKISTAN POLICE ON INDIAN VILLAGE

*214. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Pakistan border Police fired at a village about six miles East of Dawki on the Khasi Jaintia Hills—Sylhet border on the 30th December 1952?

(b) What was the number of casualties?

(c) Has any inquiry been made into the matter?

(d) What was the result of the inquiry?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (d). There was no such incident on that date.

LOCATION OF NEW STEEL PLANT

*215. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether the Government of India have finally decided on the site where the Rs. 80 crore steel plant is to be located and if so, where?

(b) What were the various sites that were considered by Government?

(c) What are the considerations which have weighed with Government in making the final selection?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No. This decision cannot be taken until the whole matter has been examined at a suitable technical level.

(b) and (c). Do not arise. The Government have appointed a Technical Mission to re-examine the project reports prepared in 1948 and to prepare a fresh project report. The Government have, however, an open mind on the question of the location of the new plant and a final decision in the matter will be taken in the light of the report of the Technical Mission.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The hon. Minister stated on the floor of the House on the 13th February that negotiations with the Japanese firm had been dropped. Has the attention of the hon. Minister been drawn to the statement of the Japanese Foreign Minister to the effect that the negotiations have been dropped because of