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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 24th August, 1953.

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

*741. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to unstarred question No. 104-A asked on the 13th November, 1952 regarding import of Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals and the supplementary statement No. 1 showing action taken on assurances etc., given during the Second Session 1952 of the House of the People, and state:

(a) whether, upon representations from indigenous manufacturers of pharmaceuticals against competition from foreign firms in respect of certain imported items, any action has been taken by Government to protect the indigenous industry; and

(b) if not, whether such competition is still going on?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). It is open to indigenous manufacturers of pharmaceuticals to seek protection against competition from imported items by applying for an inquiry by the Tariff Commission. The import duties levied on pharmaceuticals on account of revenue considerations as well as restrictions on

imports on balance of payments considerations have a protective effect too. Government have, however, appointed a Committee of Inquiry to examine all problems relating to the development of the Indian pharmaceuticals industry, and it is expected that the Committee will deal with this aspect of the problem also.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know, Sir, what are the imported items of pharmaceuticals which stand competition with Indian manufactured articles?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have a very large catalogue of items which is really very difficult to give here.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know, Sir, what is the reason for not giving protection to these pharmaceuticals upto this time?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, in regard to certain items like Para Amino Salicylic Acid there has been a tariff enquiry. In regard to other items there has not been any tariff enquiry because the manufacturers have not asked for protection as such. But as I said, certain incidental protection is afforded by reason of the fact that recently we have raised our import duties rather steeply in regard to certain categories and the import policy, in order to satisfy the requirements of foreign exchange, has been so ranged as not to permit import of chemicals which are manufactured in this country.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, how many foreign com-

panies are manufacturing pharmaceuticals in India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I require notice.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, what steps have been taken by the Government, to enable the Indian manufacturers of pharmaceuticals to get their requirements of heavy chemicals, fine chemicals and catalysts at cheap rate?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If the hon. Member mentions any particular type of chemicals, I shall endeavour to answer the question.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, what is the percentage of total earnings of Indian pharmaceutical industries spent on scientific research?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have got a few tricks up my sleeve. This does not happen to be one of them.

Pandit C. N. Malviya: May I know, Sir, the date of the appointment and the personnel of the Pharmaceutical Enquiry Committee.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Committee was appointed on the 14th February 1953. The following is the composition of the Committee:

- (1) Major General S. L. Bhatia (Chairman)
- (2) Dr. K. Vasudeva Rao (Member)
- (3) Dr. B. B. Yodh (Member)
- (4) Dr. J. C. Ghosh (Member)
- (5) Dr. R. C. Shah (Member)
- (6) Dr. T. R. Seshadari (Member)
- (7) Dr. H. R. Nanji (Member)
- (8) Shri K' R. Chandran (Member)
- (9) Shri P. M. Nabar (Member)
- (10) Dr. A. Nagaraja Rao (Member)

Dr. Anil Kumar Sen, one of the members of the Committee has since died and the question of appointment of his substitute is under consideration.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether given the necessary protection, could we be assured of the quality being equal to the foreign manufacture?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: These and other problems will be considered by this Committee. We are awaiting the report of the Committee.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is Government aware that on account of the huge resources of the foreign manufacturers and by their being allowed to operate under Indian names in this country, they are driving Indian concerns out of existence?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If I had any doubts about these matters the hon. Member's eloquence has dispelled those doubts.

Shri Joachim Alva: May I know, Sir, whether manufacturers like Park Davis have been recently hauled up in Bombay for cheating the Customs?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know if there has been any court case of that nature but perhaps there seems to have been some customs investigation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am feeling it quite chilly in the House. I am running some temperature on account of change in weather. If the hon. Members agree the temperature of the House may be raised from 74 to 80.

Several Hon. Members: Yes, yes.

LABOURERS RETRENCHED FROM STATE COLLIERIES.

***742. Ch. Raghur Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state how many labourers in the State Collieries were retrenched as a result of the Fact Finding Committee's report?

(b) How many of them have been re-employed?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) 844 casual workers were discharged from Kargali Colliery on 9th April 1953.