

Shri L. N. Mishra: From the statement, it appears that due attention has not been paid to the problem. May I know whether in view of the demand for fixation of a minimum price for jute, the Government have under consideration any proposal to carry out some intensive and extensive pilot scheme in this connection?

Shri Karmarkar: As regards the cost calculation scheme, I do not agree with the hon. Member that the rates fixed by Government are not satisfactory. Government have done the best they could to find out the actual cost of production, as far as possible.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether the Government has any idea whether the price now being paid for raw jute is economic or not?

Shri Karmarkar: So far as the past two months are concerned the prices have gone down very very much, but taking the average on the whole, the Government is satisfied that the prices raw jute fetched on an average was quite above the production price.

JUTE PRICES

*1962. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the "Prices Sub-Committee", was appointed by the Government of India, to prevent jute prices from falling below a rock bottom minimum?

(b) Is it a fact that the present slump in the Indian market has affected the price of raw jute adversely and the prices that are offered for Bihar jute, of even superior quality, do not cover the cost of its production?

(c) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to guarantee a remunerative price for jute and to safeguard the interests of the jute-growers of India?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The Prices Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries was appointed in 1945 to consider the principles on which producer's prices of agricultural and animal husbandry produce of all descriptions should be fixed and the means by which such prices can be made effective and an assured market provided, and to make recommendations. The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee thus covered the question of minimum prices for raw jute.

(b) Prices of jute, including Bihar jute have been falling since January, 1952, but there is no evidence to indicate that taking the 1951-52 Jute

Season as a whole the jute cultivators of Bihar have suffered a loss.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know, Sir, whether the Prices Sub-Committee has recommended that it is obligatory on the part of the State to prevent jute prices from falling below a rock bottom minimum?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, if that implies an obligation on the part of the State to purchase jute if it goes down below a rock bottom, there is no such system.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know, Sir, the recommendations of the Jute Planning Sub-Committee appointed by the Central Jute Committee in connection with the prices of jute?

Shri Karmarkar: About that particularly, I should like to have notice. I have the recommendations of the Sub-Committee in general.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is this Prices Sub-Committee in existence today, and if so, what is the personnel?

Shri Karmarkar: I suppose normally after it finishes its work it expires, but I shall find out.

Shri L. N. Mishra: From the statement given by the Minister in answer to question No. 1961, it appears that the cost of cultivation of jute is something like Rs. 28 per maund. May I know what is the ruling price in the Calcutta market at present?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I have under this question the Calcutta price of Bihar jute. For 'northern bottom' as against July 1951, the price on June 4 this year was Rs. 33 per md. 'western bottom' from the monthly average of Rs. 64-13 for July 1951, the present price is Rs. 27; and what we call 'jungle bottom' has come down from, as against July 1951 Rs. 64-7, to May average Rs. 21-1.

Shri L. N. Mishra: In view of the fact that the prices have fallen below the cost of production, do the Government propose to have some minimum price for jute?

Shri Karmarkar: We are considering the matter.

DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS

*1963. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state what is the number of Indian firms which manufacture drugs and pharmaceuticals?

(b) Have there been complaints that such manufacturers do not always

conform to the prescribed formulae or to International Standards?

(c) If so, what steps are being taken to ensure that only guaranteed products are put on the market?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The number of licences for manufacture issued under the Drugs Act in Part A States and the Part C States of Delhi, Ajmer and Coorg is 2,026. In the Part B States and the remaining Part C States where the Drugs Act was introduced only a short time ago the implementation of the Act is only just starting and information regarding licences issued for manufacture is not yet available. Most of the licensees are understood to be small concerns.

(b) There have been complaints regarding drugs which are not up to standard.

(c) The Drugs Act, 1940, and the rules made thereunder provide penalties for the manufacture, and sale of drugs which are not of the prescribed standards of quality. The State Governments which are responsible for enforcing the Act have their enforcement staff consisting of Inspectors and Licensing Officers.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: If drugs are not up to the standard, what is the action that the Government take?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Well, Sir, the Drugs Act provides for punishment and, in my opinion, it is all a question of inadequate machinery in the States to see that the Drugs Act is enforced.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Are drugs like vitamins and hormones made in India?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, Sir.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: What is the value of the imports of such drugs?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I could not give that figure off-hand. The Ministry of Commerce is also concerned.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether any action is being contemplated by the Government in order to check spurious drugs manufacture?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: As I have already said the Drugs Act obtains in all the States. But I am in touch with the States in regard to certain amendments which, I think, would help to bring these offences under trial by making them cognizable.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know the number of certificates granted for

patent and proprietary medicines under the Drugs Act?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would like to have notice.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: May I know, Sir, if the same complaint is made against some foreign firms who have established their factories here, such as May and Baker and others, and whether this deficiency is due to want of the necessary materials in India?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have received no complaints against these firms.

Shri R. K. Chaudhury: Is this complaint due to the fact that the necessary ingredients are not available in India and cannot be imported from outside?

Mr. Speaker: The reply is that there is no basis for it because she has received no complaints.

MYSORE STATE RAILWAY

*1964. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many employees have been discharged from the old Mysore State Railway (Southern Railway) since January 1949; and

(b) what are the reasons for their discharge?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) 367.

(b) These include unauthorised absence, misconduct, reduction of establishment, thefts, inefficiency and medical unfitness.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know Sir, whether the Government have received any representation from these discharged persons for reinstatement?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Well, every employee who is discharged has a right of appeal. I cannot say about each and every case, whether they had sent any representation or not.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Is it a fact, Sir, that persons in similar circumstances in Bombay, Madras and other neighbouring States have been reinstated?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is more or less argumentative.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know Sir, whether these discharges have been made after the integration of railways?