

Shri V. P. Nayar: What type of tuberculosis is most prevalent among cattle? Is it Udder tuberculosis?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I could not say; I want notice.

Mr. Speaker: I think we are now going into expert matters.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Sir, I have put a question on certain scientific data and I am entitled to ask some questions on this basis.

Mr. Speaker: But then the Minister is not bound to know all about it!

Shri V. P. Nayar rose—

Mr. Speaker: Let there be no argument about it.

Dr. Jaisoorya: How do Government propose to prevent the spread of tuberculosis in animals? Merely by segregation?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is one of the means, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Well, I think I shall better go to the next question.

ANTI-T. B. DRUG

*186. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government have issued a press note informing the public of the release of the Anti-T.B. Drug—Iso-nicotinic Acid Hydrazide and other Hydrazine derivatives of iso-nicotinic acid?

(b) Before the issue of this press note, has the efficacy of these drugs been tested on T.B. patients and if so, on how many patients and in which hospitals?

(c) What were the results of tests referred to in part (b) above?

(d) What is the cost of this drug at present and what is the value for which this drug has already been imported into India?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The drug had been distributed to various T.B. Hospitals and Sanatoria for clinical trials but it was decided to release it for general sale in India subject to certain restrictions without waiting for results of the trials here as it had already been released for general sale in the U.S.A. and other foreign countries after trial and as there was great demand for the release of the drug from the Indian Medical Profession. The restrictions mentioned are that the labels on the container should contain

the caution that the Drug should be taken only under Medical Supervision, and that it should be sold only to registered Medical Practitioners or on the prescription of a registered practitioner. The trials are still in progress, but the reports so far received indicate that the drug is of value as an aid for the cure of T.B. by giving symptomatic relief and making patients, in some cases, fit for surgical treatment which might not otherwise have been possible. A statement giving the names of Hospitals where trials are being conducted is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 45.]

(d) The present selling price of the imported product varies from Rs. 7-8-0 to Rs. 8-7-0 per 100 tablets of 50 mg. each. Import figures of the drug are not available as figures are not maintained separately for each drug.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In view of the answer to the question and in view of the fact that it has been admitted by the Government that many people suffer from this dreadful malady, may I know whether Government have taken any steps for the manufacture of this drug or whether they are helping other firms to manufacture this drug?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): Government are not doing any manufacture nor are Government in a position to supply this drug to people who suffer from tuberculosis.

Mr. Speaker: Supplying free to people who are suffering from tuberculosis?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I think I gave the answer last time that some poor patients are given.

Shri Punnoose: May I know, Sir, the percentage of our requirement that is produced in this country?

Mr. Speaker: What are the total requirements of this country and what is the proportion produced in India?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: This has been distributed to 28 hospitals and the trials are not completed. Unless we know all the results we are unable to give you the details.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It is a very new drug. It has only just come into the market from abroad. Government really has not had time to take any action so far as preparation of this drug is concerned. They are encouraging the people who apply for its manufacture. It is impossible for Government to say how much of this drug is required for patients.