

### Short Supply of Drugs

4518. SHRI SHANKER SINHI VAGHELA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that during 1977 most of the vital drugs were in short supply ;

(b) the names and number of drugs which were in short supply ;

(c) the reasons for their being in short supply; and

(d) the particular efforts made in this respect and how for the position has improved now ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to

(c). It is not correct to say that most of the vital drugs were in short supply. Only occasional shortages of some medicines with brand names were reported from different areas of the country from time to time. However, in most of the cases equivalent products of reputed manufacturers were generally available. These items vary from month to month. Such shortages are due to many factors, viz., inadequate production, non-availability of drugs even in the international market, and specific demand for a particular branded or proprietary preparation.

(d). Whenever shortages came in notice, the matter was taken up immediately with the concerned manufacturers for rushing supplies of the medicines. The problems, if any, of the manufacturers were also looked into with a view to stepping up production.

Government took particular notice of the situation reported with regard to Streptomycin injections and Dapsone tablets. As a remedial measure, the State Drug Controllers/Associations in the drug industry were requested to ask the Streptomycin vialers to curtail their production of Streptomycin-Penicillin combination in order to increase the availability of Streptomycin injections. Major vialers were also directly requested to do so. Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited and Hindustan Antibiotics Limited the two public sector drug units, have also been asked to step up their production to meet the demand. IDPL is reported to have already met the bulk requirement of the industry for the quarter ending 31st March, 1978. The availability is expected to improve further in the coming months.

As regards Dapsone tablets, while no shortage in public institution was reported Government have advised the two major producers—(i) M/s. Burroughs Wellcome ; and (ii) M/s. Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works Limited to increase their production so as to meet the requirements, in particular, of the voluntary organisations and trade on a priority basis. Import of some quantity of the bulk drug has also been allowed.

### Shortage of Products by M/s Hoechst India

4519. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some artificial shortage of the products of M/s. Hoechst India is being created in the market by the firm ;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to procure all their products and channelise distribution; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Occasional shortages of branded medicines of different companies are reported from different areas. However, during the last six months in the case of M/s Hoechst Pharmaceuticals, Novalgine (formulation based on Analgin) was reported to be in short supply in Tamil Nadu in December, 1977 and Orissa in February, 1978. Another item, Hostacycline (formulations based on Tetracycline) was reported to be in short supply in Orissa during the month of February, 1978.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No such scheme has been formulated for any firm operating in the field of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals.

### झारु में बिबाम गृह

4520. श्री जगदीश : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का बिबाम कोटा-बीना लाईन पर झारु तथा छाबड़ा स्टेशनों पर यात्रियों के लिए यात्री बिबाम गृह बनाने का है; और