

India. There is nothing to suggest that the said purchases contravened the provisions of the Articles of Association and Memorandum of the company.

recurring and non-recurring, being given to the Hindustan Samachar Cooperative Limited since it started functioning?

Non Payment of Salaries to Staff of Hindusthan Samachar

8228. SHRI S. S. SOMANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints that the staff of the Hindustan Samachar Cooperative Society Limited is not getting its salary regularly;

(b) ~~it so~~, since when the details regarding the amount of grant-in-aid,

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI: (a) and (b). Government are aware that there was delay in payment of salaries to some of the employees of Hindusthan Samachar for the months of December, 1978 and January and February, 1979. Salaries for the month of March, 1979 were paid on April 2, 1979. Details of grant-in-aid given to Hindusthan Samachar are as under:—

Purpose of grant	Amount of Grant
I. Recurring	
Two instalments of six monthly advance payment of differential of salary and allowances as also bonus, gratuity, provident fund owing to increase in scale of pay of the employees as a result of upgradation on formation of Samachar.	(i) Rs. 3.34 lakhs (ii) Rs. 3.06 lakhs
II. Non-recurring	
(a) Rehabilitation grant to restart operations	Rs. 4.50 lakhs
(b) Ad-hoc grant for development of news service	Rs. 3.50 lakhs
	Rs. 14.40 lakhs

Supply of .22 & .12 bore cartridges to Arms Dealers

8229. SHRI RAJE VISHVESHWAR RAO: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that the Defence ammunition factories have not been supplying .22 and .12 bore cartridges to the local arms dealers regularly as it was supplied before emergency;

(b) if not what is the reason; and

(c) will Government see to it that ammunition is supplied to the local shops immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) to (c). The facts about the two kinds of ammunitions are as below:—

(i) .22 cartridges—This ammunition is common for both Defence and civilian use. In order to meet Defence requirements, which have

overriding priority, the supply of this ammunition to Arms dealers has sometimes to be reduced.

(ii) .12 Bore cartridge is only for civilian use. Supplies to Arms dealers are made according to registration of orders on 'first come—first served' basis.

Steps, however, have been taken by the Government to reduce waiting period against registered orders.

Acceptance of Declared Prices of Bulk Drugs

3230. SHRI CHHABIRAM ARGAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have not accepted declared price of Erythromycin stearate which is an essential drug whereas prices of other essential drugs like Metronidazole, Pheno Barbitone Sodium, Phthalyl Sulphathiazole etc. have been accepted; if so, date of declaration of prices of Erythromycin Stearate and other drugs; and

(b) what are the reasons for discrimination in the matter of accepting declared prices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Government was empowered under Paragraph 4 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970 to fix the prices of essential bulk drugs after such inquiry as it deemed fit for the purpose. For essential bulk drugs like Erythromycin Stearate, Metronidazole, Phenobarbitone Sodium and Phthalyl Sulphathiazole the question of acceptance of declared price, therefore, does not arise. The prices of these drugs approved by the Government for the purpose of fixation of formulation prices are indicated below:—

	Rs./Kg.
1. Erythromycin Stearate	1006
2. Metronidazole	428.77 (distribution price of IDPL)
3. Phthalyl Sulphathiazole	129.40 (pooled price)
4. Phenobarbitone Sodium.	320.56

(b) In view of the position explained in reply to part (a) above, the question of any discrimination does not arise.

Crisis in Marine Diesel Engine Plant, Ranchi

8231. SHRI C. R. MAHATA: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government owned Marine Diesel Engine Plant at Ranchi, a unit of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Calcutta, is facing a serious order crisis; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b). The general recession in the Shipbuilding Industry has adversely affected the order book position of the Marine Diesel Engine Plant at Ranchi. However, efforts are being made by the Government as well as the management of Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. to secure orders from the concerned agencies. The Company is also exploring various avenues to enable maximum utilisation of the installed capacity of the plant based on market demand and other relevant factors.