

Production of Drugs

4738. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total output of drugs in the years 1972, 1973 and 1974;

(b) what part of this drug production was manufactured by wholly foreign owned companies, partly foreign owned companies and indigenous companies; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the output by the indigenous companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (Shri K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

(c) The Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Jai-sukhlal Hathi is examining various aspects of drug industry. The terms of reference of the Committee, *inter alia* include:

"To make recommendations for promoting the rapid growth of the drug industry and, particularly, of the Indian and small-scale industries sector. In making its recommendations the Committee will keep in view the need for a balanced regional dispersal of the industry."

Report of the committee on "measures for providing essential drugs and common household remedies to the general public, especially in rural areas" has been received. Based on this report details of essential drugs and common household medicines which will be required in large quantities are being worked out.

Government have taken the following measures to encourage the Indian sector of the drug industry:—

- (i) The Indian sector of the industry is given preference in approval of manufacturing schemes;
- (ii) Manufacture of increasing number of bulk drugs through public sector undertakings;
- (iii) Industrial licences are usually not issued to foreign firms for producing formulations unless linked with the production of bulk drugs;
- (iv) They are asked to take up production of bulk drugs from more basic stages and to make available a suitable portion of their bulk drugs production to non-associated formulators in the country as a condition for being permitted expansion in capacity or for taking up new activity; Appropriate export obligations are also imposed
- (v) Progressive reduction of foreign equity participation with corresponding increase in the Indian shareholding is imposed when they are allowed expansion of their manufacturing activities
- (vi) Companies having more than 40 per cent foreign holding and branches of foreign companies operating in India are required to obtain approval of the Government for carrying on any activity of a trading, commercial or industrial nature of for starting fresh activities

Discussions have also been held with the representatives of Indian Medical Association and Indian Drug Manufacturers Association regarding the role which the Indigenous sector of the drug industry should play in making available drugs in adequate quantities to meet the requirements of the country. This sector has also been asked to prepare a scheme for production of mass consumption drugs at cheap prices and to identify

such drugs out of the list given by the Hathi Committee. Discussions have also been initiated with the Public Sector undertakings producing drugs and with the Indian sector of the drug industry to work out necessary steps for larger availability of the essential life saving drugs and to reduce cost of production. These discussions are continuing and necessary action on the various aspects will be taken after the report of the Committee is received in April, 1975.

Citizens' Convention in Calcutta on Electoral Reforms

4739. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a citizen's convention held in Calcutta on the 26th February, 1975 in demand of electoral reforms;

(b) if so, broad outlines of the demand made in the convention; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereabout?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) The Government's attention has been drawn to a newspaper report regarding a citizens convention held in Calcutta on 26th February, 1975.

(b) The main resolutions relating to electoral reforms passed in the convention, as reported in the newspaper are.—

- (1) The Election Commission is to be appointed in such a manner that its impartiality is assured;
- (2) Three months before an election is held either for the entire Lok Sabha or for the entire Vidhan Sabha, the appro-

priate Government shall vacate office;

- (3) Use of Government transport and other official facilities are not to be permitted either to the Prime Minister or any other minister for election purposes;
- (4) Only one large ballot box is to be used at one polling booth instead of several, and facilities are to be provided to agents or candidates to guard the ballot boxes till the time of counting;
- (5) Votes cast in each polling booth are to be counted immediately after polling and at the place of polling;
- (6) Proportional representation;
- (7) The personal safety of candidates, election polling and counting agents and their election workers and election officers and staff is to be safeguarded against threats of physical and other injuries and intimidation;
- (8) Every candidate shall enjoy the right to carry on unhindered election work.

(c) Government propose to hold discussions with the leaders of political parties regarding amendments to election law.

Allocation of Kerosene Oil to States

4740 SHRI BIEHUTI MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed the price for sale of Kerosene oil in various States and at important centres to the consumer; and

(b) whether the dealers charge higher prices from consumers?