

Antibiotics Factory at Rishikesh

*646. **Shri Swell:** Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) when the antibiotics factory at Rishikesh is likely to go into production;

(b) the types of antibiotics that will be produced there; and

(c) the extent of foreign exchange that will be required for setting up this factory?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) It is expected that the Antibiotics Plant at Rishikesh will go into production by the middle of 1966.

(b) The Plant has been licensed for the production of the following antibiotics:—

- (1) Penicillin;
- (2) Streptomycin;
- (3) Dihydrostreptomycin;
- (4) Chlorotetracycline;
- (5) Oxytetracycline;
- (6) Tetracycline; and
- (7) Nystatin.

(c) Rs. 5:5 crores approximately.

Shri Swell: With regard to the antibiotics manufactured in our country, the Minister must be aware that there are many complaints about the impurity and adulteration of these drugs. For instance, flies have been found in penicillin vials manufactured in the Pimpri antibiotics factory. May I know, with the setting up of this plant, what definite steps Government is taking to ensure that the products of this factory will be of high purity?

Shri Humayun Kabir: As far as I am aware, the products of our public sector as well as private sector industries have generally been of a high quality. Unfortunately there have been one or two cases of the type

mentioned by the hon. Member. I am sure that this factory will take every possible step to see that the highest quality is maintained.

Shri Swell: May I know whether the raw materials for these drugs will be procured indigenously or will they be imported from outside?

Shri Humayun Kabir: In many cases, they will be procured internally. If in some cases it is necessary to acquire something from outside for a short period, we shall also take steps to see that they are in course of time manufactured in the country.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: The Government is aware that there has been a cry about the sale prices of products manufactured at Pimpri factory. May I know if steps are taken to see that the prices of products of this factory will be somewhere near a reasonable level?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It will not be a question of this factory alone. It should be one of the concerns of the Government to see that the prices of drugs go down and to see that medicine is offered at as reasonable a cost as possible.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In view of the growing school of thought in the medical world that antibiotics—anti means against and bio means life—can be as dangerous to human life as they are to the life of germs and bacilli, do Government propose to give second thought to this matter and go slow with this process?

Shri Humayun Kabir: This is an expression of opinion. Though I have every respect for any opinion expressed by my hon. friend, I do not think he is an authority on medicine . . .

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is not my opinion; it is the growing school of thought in the medical world that antibiotics are as dangerous to human life as they are to the life of germs and bacilli. He does not know anything at all about medicine and he

says I do not know. Does he know anything? He knows less than I do.

Shri Humayun Kabir: I accept I know less than him but I have advisers who know more.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shri Pant.

Shri K. C. Pant: May I know to what extent the production of antibiotics in this country is going to cover the demands for antibiotics in the country and whether there is any proposal to expand the factory in the fourth Plan?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I cannot say anything about the fourth Plan yet. But during the third Plan, there will be considerable expansion in capacity and we hope that when this capacity is installed, to a large extent we will be able to cover the requirements.

Mr. Speaker: The Question hour is over. But Question No. 649 may be answered, because it is important.

Eviction of Adivasis in West Bengal

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*649. { **Shrimati Renu
Chakravartty;**
Shri S. M. Banerjee;
Shri Daji;

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether firing was resorted to, to evict adivasis living on land in their possession for the last 40 years in P. S. Noapara, in Barrackpore area of West Bengal;

(b) whether one adivasi was shot through the heart and another girl of eleven was killed outright;

(c) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that these adivasis are usually unable to produce documents and are therefore cheated by unscrupulous anti-social people; and

(d) the steps the Ministry has evolved to protect their interests?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) to (d). The adivasis were staying on the land since 1951 with the permission of the then landlord. The land was sold in 1960 and the new landlord obtained an eviction-order from the Civil Court, Sealdah. The Bailiff and the Police party who went to the land on the 29th November, 1963 to execute the order were attacked by the adivasis with brickbats, bows and arrows, and other sharp cutting and deadly weapons, and some of them received injuries. This necessitated the firing, as a result of which one adivasi was killed. A girl of eleven, who was a bystander, was also accidentally hit by a bullet, and died in hospital shortly afterwards. The West Bengal Government have ordered an inquiry into the incident.

2. No specific complaints of these adivasis were brought to the notice of the Government of India. Generally speaking, however, unscrupulous and anti-social elements everywhere try to take advantage of the weaker people. The questions of protection of the interests of the weaker sections occupy a very wide field and Government are trying their best to advance their welfare through scheme provided in the Five Year Plans.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that Government has admitted that unscrupulous and anti-social elements everywhere try to take advantage of the weaker people and in view also of the fact that in West Bengal a large number of tribals are evicted from land, may I know why Government has not seen to it that legal aid is given to these adivasis to fight their way right up to the High Court and why it was left only to the lower courts to come to a judgment even though they have been living in that land for more than twelve years?