

(c) whether it is also a fact that the personal income-tax arrears of the judgement-debtor are small compared with the value of the property that had been got attached by the Life Insurance Corporation and its sale proceeds would be enough to meet the claims both of the Life Insurance Corporation and the Income-tax Department, if the Corporation and the Department did not come in each other's way ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) The Corporation has taken necessary steps for executing the decree against Shri Ram Rattan Gupta and several proceedings in this connection are pending in law Courts.

(b) No, Sir. The Income-tax Department filed a petition on 13th April, 1968 claiming priority of its dues over the dues of the Corporation, but the execution proceedings have not been stayed on this ground.

(c) According to the Corporation's estimate, the share of the judgement-debtor in the properties already attached by it, is about Rs. 2,81,000/-. On the basis of this estimate, the sale proceeds would not be adequate to cover the dues of the Corporation and the Income-tax Department.

Orders placed by Directorate-General of Supplies and Disposals on Lakshmiratan Cotton Mills, Kanpur

4649. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the value of orders placed by the Directorate of Supplies and Disposals with Lakshmiratan Cotton Mills, Kanpur since October, 1967 when the above mill reopened after a year long closure; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said Lakshmiratan Cotton Mills has been receiving orders from the Directorate of Supplies and Disposals in spite of their failure to produce annually Income-tax Clearance Certificates and Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account for the last several years, without which no firm can be registered as approved contractor and receive orders from the Directorate of Supplies and Disposals?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI IQBAL SINGH): (a) Rs. 159 lakhs approximately.

(b) M/s. Lakshmiratan Cotton Mills, Kanpur, were registered with the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals up to 30th June, 1967. Their request for renewal of registration was not acceded to because of their inability to furnish the Income-Tax Clearance certificate. However, because of their past satisfactory performance, contracts of the value mentioned at (a) above were concluded in view of the limited capacity available and the competitive rates offered by the firm.

Non-availability of Medicines and Drugs

4650. **SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR:** Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several drugs and medicines like (i) Sulphadimidine tablets, (ii) Potassium Citrate, (iii) Gentian Violet, (iv) P.A.S., (v) Glycerine, (vi) Liquid Paraffin, (vii) Tincture Benzoin, (viii) Powder Tannic Acid, (ix) Ammonium Carbonate, (x) Acriflavine, (xi) Vitamin B complex also Vitamin C of good quality are not available anywhere in India not even in Government and big private hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry refused to grant foreign exchange for the import of such drugs; and

(d) how many patients are suffering due to non-availability of such medicines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): (a) No. It is not a fact. Sulphadimidine is an important item and is allowed to be imported freely by manufacturers. Potassium Citrate is made indigenously from imported Citric Acid. Gentian Violet is an item whose import is permitted. Regarding PAS, a shortage of this drug was apprehended and timely action was taken to import Sodium PAS in bulk. Some of the imported material has already arrived and distributed to the manufacturers of PAS formulations.