

Rs. 39.50 per ampul which is beyond the reach of the common man. It is an open loot by the private company. The Bengal Immunity has stopped the production of anti-snake venom and anti-diphtheria serum for the last one year and as a result of that, thousands of people have been pushed into the jaws of death due to the non-availability of these medicines. The most painful aspect is that non-availability of free anti-rabies vaccines in the hospitals in Uttar Pradesh has created a grave situation. The said private company is manufacturing these medicines and selling at the rate of Rs. 2400 per course all over the country but it is beyond the purchasing capacity of the people of our country.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to make available the ATS and anti-rabies vaccines in order to save the lives of thousands of people and also to check the arbitrary prices being charged by the private companies for these medicines.

[English]

(iii) *Integrated proposal of developing Paradeep Port*

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK (Jagat-singhpur) : The integrated proposal of developing Paradeep Port to handle bulk carriers for an annual export of 6 million tonnes of iron ore, construction of a rail link between Daitari and Banspani and development of iron ore mines in the hinterland of Paradeep Port is pending approval of the Government of India for quite some time.

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The Working Group constituted by the Government of India has submitted its recommendations long since and it is observed that the project is technically and financially viable, desirable from the points of view of earning additional foreign exchange and for developing backward area of the country. The Working Group has also observed that unless the projected facilities are created at Paradeep Port, the port will gradually ease out of iron ore export trade.

The proposal was initiated keeping in view the interest shown by South Korea to import additional quantity of iron ore for its new iron & steel works. If a decision about implementation of the project is delayed, it is apprehended that South Korea will turn to other sources like Brazil and Australia who would be too willing to seize such opportunity and our country would lose the opportunity to step up its foreign exchange earnings.

As such, I request the Government to take early decision in the matter and approve the proposal for the development of Paradeep Port.

[Translation]

- (iv) *Need to waive customs duty on the import of wool to protect the carpet industry in the country, particularly in Mirzapur, Bhadoi in Uttar Pradesh*

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the carpet industry is the main industry in my parliamentary constituency Mirzapur, Bhadoi, other adjacent districts and in several other parts of the country. It is a cottage industry. About 15 lakh people earn their living from this industry. In addition to it, the foreign currency worth about Rs. 150 crores is earned by the export of carpets to the foreign countries. But today this industry is facing crisis due to the shortage and high prices of raw material. The main raw material of this industry is sheep wool which is partially produced in the country and partially imported from foreign countries like New Zealand etc. During the last Winter Session, I had demanded that the wool production should be increased on a large scale in the country and also it should be imported from countries like New Zealand on a large scale free of import duty to meet the requirement of carpet producers. In addition, it was also demanded that permission should be given to the carpet manufactures to import wool free of import duty. But it is regretted that the import duty on wool has been raised by 10 per cent causing more crisis in the Carpet Industry.