

[MR. SPEAKER]

are at normal level, but I too am at normal level. Please sit down. You may go on repeating. But my reply is the same. You are a clever member. I shall have to see it before I ask the Minister to reply. Do you want that I should keep myself shut and you should pass on the slip to him without even my seeing it? Why are you wasting the time? Please sit down. The Home Minister is taking the hint if he takes it from you—not from me. This is not the way. I am really very sorry, this practice is so bad. Be reasonable. You will submit it to me. I shall examine it and I can honestly assure you that I shall examine it on merits. I have allowed many many dangerous things from your side. But, this is not the way of getting through me. When I am attending to some member's debate you suddenly creep in with some things. I wish I could get my ear deafened when you are so near and when you speak. I wish I could switch off when you speak! Now, Mr Banerjee, you are being permitted by your friend to go ahead.

13 33 hrs.

#### MATTER UNDER RULE 377

REPORTED DEATH OF A GIRL IN A KANPUR HOSPITAL DUE TO DICRYSTICIN INJECTION

SHRI S M BANERJEE (Kanpur).—Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue which has shaken not only the city of Kanpur but also the entire country. That is about the spurious drugs' administration resulting in deaths of so many lives.

Unfortunately, you were not here at the time when I raised this question how spurious glucose injections which were administered to the patients had cost 24 lives in a Kanpur Hospital. You would have read today's news in the *Times of India*

under the caption 'Life-saving drug claims life'

It says:

"A 2 1/2 year-old girl is reported to have died immediately after she was administered a test dose of dicrysticin, "life-saving" drug, at a local charitable hospital here yesterday."

You know, Sir, that the child was under the treatment of another clinic for the last many days. It was brought to the charitable hospital and the drug was prescribed to be administered to that child. The compounder gave that child a 'sensitive test' but she collapsed within minutes.

According to doctors, there were cases in which the patients succumbed even to the test dose. The police have sealed all the dicrysticin injections in the hospital and the compounder has been arrested.

May I invite your attention to the fact that in this very House Dr. Karan Singh while revolving to my point raised under rule 377 had stated that he would take proper steps because he thought that this was not death because of spurious drugs but this amounted to murder?

The extent of the menace can be gauged from the speed with which firms manufacturing drugs and allied products have mushroomed in the state, that is, U.P., during the last ten years. According to a directory published by the directorate of industries, there were only 37 drug units in 1963 in the entire sector. Their number has now gone up to more than 200, of which over 70 are located in Kanpur alone. These firms just do not stand on their own, and I made a statement here with full authority that there were very high people, people who came from the high society in Kanpur, who were the cream of the society, who were highly connected, that

is, people who were Ministers, ex-Ministers, and even today Ministers; their firms are connected with this. . . .

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** (Godhra): They are not the cream; but they are the scum.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** You will be surprised to know the amount of opium issued through the Centre for the manufacture of certain drugs like pathidrine, 50 per cent of this opium is consumed by a single firm in Kanpur called Hind Chemicals. I am surprised that no inquiry has been conducted into the working of these firms. May I request you, Sir, to kindly ask the Health Minister to make a statement? The Chief Minister of UP has arrested many persons, and I am very happy about it. But I would just mention one more thing about what has happened in the case of these drug firms. The press report says:

"Alarmed by this phenomenal growth, the UP Government appointed three years ago a committee of five doctors headed by the then additional directors of health, Dr. B. N. Chatterji, to find out whether the drug units were maintaining the standards required of them. The Committee, which visited parts of not only UP but also Maharashtra and Gujarat reported that not a single pharmaceutical firm in the State was maintaining the standards required in respect of the manufacture of sophisticated drugs.

Amazing as it may seem the powers that be put the committee's report in cold storage and drugs of doubtful quality continued to be bought by hospitals and other institutions in large quantities."

I am surprised that the Health Minister is not here. Let the Health Minister make a statement, and I am prepared to give all the proof required to show how the people are involved in

it. I would request you to ask the Health Minister to make a statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I shall forward it to the Health Minister. I have also received—I do not know whether it is in my capacity as Speaker or otherwise—another complaint that two very eminent persons had hardly survived after taking a drug which turned out spurious. They told me that the drug inspectors were actively involved in it. So, I shall convey that along with the hon. Member's observation; I do not know whether that came to me in my capacity as Speaker or otherwise, but I will certainly ask the Health Minister to pursue it and look into it.

13.39 hrs.

DEMANDS\* FOR GRANTS, 1974—  
 75—contd.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

**MR. SPEAKER:** The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demands Nos. 1 to 10 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture for which 9 hours have been allotted.

DEMAND NO. 1—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**MR. SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,36,02,000 on Revenue Account be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1975, in respect of 'Department of Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 2—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

**MR. SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,000 on Revenue Account

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.