

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He is asking for the AIMMK Government in every State.

SHRI ANANDA GANAPATHI RAJU : There is a lot of mal-nutrition in the villages and the whole generation is likely to be affected. The Government of Andhra Pradesh had started a scheme earlier, but it had to give it up because of paucity of funds. I have a suggestion to make and which I will put across to the hon. Minister. That is, the Ministry of Human Resources Development and the Ministry of Health may join together and start some scheme in every State including our State so that the generation will be saved and children will not be put to this type of problem.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : In the case of Andhra Pradesh, paucity of funds has compelled them to stop this scheme half-way or mid-way; in the case of other States, presumably paucity of funds has stopped them from starting this scheme. I am not in a position to say whether the Centre will underwrite all this, because the money has to come from the same kitty. If we have to do this, then we will have to cut down on something else. At the moment, the Central Government has no scheme of financing mid-day meals, in any of the States, but we will certainly like mid-day meals to be started and implemented in the States and the State Governments to make some provision in their own budgets which has not been done so far.

Samples of Imported Bulk Drugs and Drug Formulations

*645. **SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that samples are drawn of bulk drugs as well as drug formulations being imported in the country before clearing from the customs;

(b) if so, names of the bulk drugs and formulations samples of which were drawn during the last three years;

(c) the names of laboratories where the drugs were tested; and

(d) what action is taken by Government on such test reports ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Samples are drawn for test in case drugs imported for the first time. Random samples are lifted from consignments of the same drug received from the same manufacturer, imported subsequently.

(b) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(c) Names of Government and approved private laboratories engaged in testing of drugs are given in the attached statement.

(d) If a drug on test is reported not of standard quality by a statutory testing laboratory, the drug is either exported back to the country of origin or destroyed.

Statement

NAMES OF GOVERNMENT AND APPROVED PRIVATE LABORATORIES

GOVERNMENT TESTING LABORATORIES

1. The Central Drugs Laboratory, Calcutta.
2. The Central Research Institute, Kasauli.
3. The Central Indian Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad.
4. The Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar, U.P.

APPROVED PRIVATE TESTING LABORATORIES

1. M/s. Analytical Testing Services (P) Ltd., New Delhi.
2. M/s. Shri Ram Test House, Delhi.

3. M/s. Ita Labs Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.
4. M/s Chem. Med. Analytical Laboratories, Bombay.
5. M/s Micro Labs. (P) Ltd., Madras.
6. M/s Medopharma, Madras.
7. M/s T.T.K. Pharma, Madras.
8. M/s Tamily Nadu Dhada Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Madras.
9. M/s Alkali Chemicals Ltd., Madras.
10. M/s Mical Lab. Ltd., Madras.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, complaints are being received that standard is not being maintained in respect of the bulk drugs, finished formulations and life saving drugs being imported into the country from abroad and that there are many vaccines and serums which we are importing but we do not have facilities for their proper investigation and testing. As a result of that we have to depend totally on the countries from which we are importing them and it has been found on a number of occasions that such polio-vaccines were imported which were found sub-standard. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government are making efforts to ensure that the life-saving drugs so imported are put to a proper testing so that the people using these drugs are assured of their safe use ?

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The main question relates to testing of drugs which are imported. As has been answered, there is a statutory procedure for the testing of the imported drugs. The samples are drawn and tested in the Central Drugs Laboratory at Calcutta at the first instance, and for repeated consignments in the 10 approved laboratories in the vicinities of the ports of disembarkation, at Madras, Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta. We use the 4

central drug testing laboratories and 10 selected approved laboratories in the private sector, which are again approved as per the statutory procedure for the testing of the imported drugs.

As regards the drugs produced in the country, we have altogether 68 drug testing laboratories. The hon. member is entirely correct in saying that our testing capacity is very badly strained. We have to test hundreds and thousands of samples, if we have to be extremely vigilant about the spurious and sub-standard drugs and our two central laboratories can test only 3,400 and 4000 samples a year. We have a time bound programme for augmentation of these testing facilities. There are about 12 States and Union Territories which do not have testing facilities and are dependent on the Central Government laboratories, which they have appointed as government analysts. We are improving the infrastructure and Government is aware of this matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : I would also like to know whether complaints have been received that other costly medicines are being imported by some companies in the name of medicines which are exempted from custom duty ? What happens is that the medicines so imported carry the label of exempted medicines all right but very often costly medicines are imported in disguise on which custom duty is leviable otherwise. Thus, Government loses on two counts. Firstly it loses the custom duty and secondly, profit is earned by the big companies. I would like what action Government are taking in this regard ?

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : I have mentioned to the hon. member about the statutory procedures for testing. But, what the question involves is enforcement and lack of adequate care or other malpractices in testing. That is a general question. As far as the testing inspectors

are concerned, their first duty is to scrutinise the labels and see whether the particulars required to be shown on them are in conformity with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. And then, as statutorily required, the sample is taken and tested and only if found acceptable the drug is released into the open market. Of course, you cannot test every single consignment and every single item. We can only test by sampling because that is all that is possible.

DR. V. VENKATESH : 38 years are over since Independence. Actually, non-essential drugs which are very costly are being imported from outside and they are all over-burdening our market, thereby forcing the doctors to prescribe more and more drugs. Over-dosage of patients is increasing more and more and the ill effects because of chemical reaction in the body are much more. Therefore, I want to know whether the Government has got any idea to go in for a new drug policy in future.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, there is a laid down import procedure under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. The Drugs Technical Advisory Board goes into every single aspect of any controversy any new drug before it is allowed to be imported into the country.

Secondly, as far as the Drug Policy is concerned, as the House is aware, a new Drug Policy is under formulation. The Drug Policy has three different components. First is licensing of capacity and production, second is pricing and only the third is the health aspect, i.e. quality control and the availability of drugs. Only the third aspect is dealt with by this Ministry. The First two aspects are dealt by the nodal Ministry of Chemicals. The Health Ministry will play its role in the formulation of the Drug Policy which is under consideration.

DR. V. VENKATESH : He is telling the good old story. I want to know whether the Government is coming forward with a new Drug Policy because a number of people are complaining in the country ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir I was telling the new story.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that there are 68 laboratories in the country and Government are taking steps to augment their number. I would like to know from him whether some assessment has been made in respect of the demand and availability of life saving drugs in the country and whether our country is poised to achieve self sufficiency in this field ?

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the total off-take of drugs in this country is estimated at Rs. 1250 crores a year. And the total import is about 25 to 30 per cent. We cannot drastically curtail the imports because of the great scientific advancement in the medical field and the necessity to import New Drugs in order to keep abreast of the world developments in curative health services.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Sir, has it come to the notice of the Government that there is an off-repeated complaint that in this country many bulk drug formulations are imported or are dumped which has been rejected by other countries—advanced countries which is detrimental to health and whether this aspect of the matter is scrutinised at the time when the testing is done and, if not, the reasons thereof ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, I talked about the import procedure. There is also a procedure of banning of unnecessary drugs. Thirty-three drugs have been banned in different countries. There are permutations and combinations, some drugs are banned in some countries, but used in certain other countries including the developed and under-developed world.

As and when a drug is banned in any single country, the W.H.O. intimates the member countries about the banning and we start the procedure of re-examining that particular drug, if it is in vogue in our country. Thirty-three intimations were received by the Government of India, of which sixteen drugs are not existent in India. They were never introduced in the country. For the first time, ten drugs have been banned by us and in the case of seven drugs, we have taken a conscious decision to continue these drugs because they are cheap essential drugs necessary in the socio-economic as well as the health conditions of this country.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to pay that drugs, whether in the shape of formulations or the basics, it is very essential so far as quality control is concerned for the life and health of the nation. In view of this, may I ask the Minister whether he is satisfied about the quality control measures, with regard to the small and medium sectors and if not then what action he proposes to take in this regard?

(b) He has said that in the formulation of a new Drug Policy, the Health Ministry is associated. May I know in what manner you are associated in the formulation and how far it would be helpful?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : What is the first part of the question? (*Interruptions*). As far as the first part of the question is concerned...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. No, no comments. . . .

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : To the first part of the question, our response is that the hon. Member is entirely correct in pinpointing one of the weaknesses the drug testing picture in the country. There are 9,000 small scale manufacturers of drugs. We had stipulated, after giving them time, i.e. various periods of time, that from 1st January 1980 they must have their own internal testing facilities. But

unfortunately, the small scale units have not implemented this fully. They are continuing, some of them are continuing to get their drugs tested in approved laboratories—which was the dispensation earlier. The entire drugs administration is a State subject. We have taken the matter with the States forcefully; and most of small industries are not in a satisfactory financial position also, to introduce all these sophisticated facilities at one stroke.

There are various aspects to this question. We will progressively see that all small sector industries have their own internal testing facilities,

As far as the Drug Policy is concerned, we have given our considered views to the nodal Ministry; and I am sure that Health Minister's viewpoint will be taken into account before this policy is finalized,

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Place your viewpoints before the House.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : When a matter is under consideration, I do not understand how it can be placed before the House.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : This is one of the vital points—these are life-saving drugs. In the J.J. Hospital in Bombay, 18 people died because of a small mistake of one of the manufacturers from Vapi. Therefore, does not the Government think that it should have the drug formulation policy, and take it that it is the primary responsibility of the Central Government? (*Interruptions*) I am a doctor.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is a doctor; That is why he is interested.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The particular incident in which glycerine was wrongly administered, resulting in some deaths in the J.J. Hospital, is *sub judice*, and hence we do not want to comment on it.

The latter part of the question relates to the general administration of the Drug Control Act, and I have already indicated the steps we are contemplating, and those we are implementing.

SHRI G.S. MISHRA : I would like to know from the Minister : During the last one year, how many sub-standard drug samples have been drawn and analyzed in the laboratories, and how many have been found to be spurious ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : I have the figures here in respect of the general percentage of sub standard and spurious drugs. Of the total quantum of drugs tested through the samples drawn by the Drug Inspectors in the country those found sub standard constitute about 15% to 18% ; and for the imported drugs, the percentage is about three. This does not mean that 15% to 18% of all the drugs in the country are spurious, because samples are taken to test suspicious cases. So, these liquid need not give a very correct picture.

SHRI G.S. MISHRA : I want the number : how many spurious drug samples were drawn...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next question—Shri Salahuddin is not here, Now Question No. 647—Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

Construction of SYL Canal

***647. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :**

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alleged threats of the extremists in Punjab that they would fill up the Sutlej-Yamuna link canal through Kar Sewa;

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto ; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up the construction of the SYL Canal as it is a part of the Rajiv-Longowal accord ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. However, the Chief Minister Punjab in a statement made on 3rd April 1986 at Chandigarh has stated that the Punjab Government assures its full commitment to complete the construction of the Canal in terms of the Accord.

(c) Measures for expediting the construction of the Canal are under discussion.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

National Anthem in Educational Institutions

***643. SHRI R.M. BHOYE :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are aware that in some educational institutions the National Anthem is never sung so much so that even on National days like Independence Day and Republic Day disregard to the National Anthem is shown ; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken or contemplated by Government to ensure according of proper honour to the National Anthem in all the educational institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) & (b) The policy of the Government is that the school authorities should make adequate provision in their programmes for popularization and singing of the National Anthem.