

Statutory Obligation for Pharmaceutical Units for Production of Essential Drugs

+

*1120. SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN:
SHRI C. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no statutory obligation for pharmaceutical units to devote 30 per cent of their production for production of essential drugs; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not imposing and enforcing such an obligation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Para 59 of the Statement on New Drug Policy laid on the Table of the House on March 29, 1978 stipulates that it will be progressively ensured that at least 20 per cent of the turnover of an individual drug company is in Categories I & II formulations. This will, however, require amendment to the relevant provisions of the I (D&R) Act, 1951 as it would involve imposition of an additional condition in the existing industrial licences of various companies. Ministry of Industry have already been moved in this behalf. The matter can be pursued only after the I(D&R) Act, 1951, is amended as necessary.

SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN: I was really shocked to see the answer of the hon. Minister. The senior-most and experienced Minister has not amended the Act. A new drug policy is socially a must and should also be done in the interest of the public. There are various categories according to the policy of the Government. Category III has come under essential drugs; and the Hathi Committee has mentioned about the high-priced

drugs. And category III has been placed beyond the reach of the poor. What are the essential drugs under category III? It says: "Some of the drugs used in the treatment for such common diseases as tuberculosis, malaria, typhoid and tetanus have been included in category III." Why are they allowing to include these drugs? Though the Hathi Committee Report has not said about it is against it, these should not be included in category III. Government have included them in category III. Will the hon. Minister answer these points?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: The question related essentially to the manufacture of category I and category II drugs. The basis of categorisation of drugs has been fully explained in the Drug Policy. I need not say more on that.

SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN: Minister said—category I & II request was for 30 per cent of the production. He has not answered the question very well.

He said—"Para 59 of the Statement on New Drug Policy laid on the Table of the House on March 29, 1978 stipulates that it will be progressively ensured that at least 20 per cent of the turnover of an individual drug company is in categories I & II formulations. This will, however, require amendment to the relevant provisions of the I (D & R) Act, 1951 as it would involve imposition of an additional condition in the existing industrial licences of various companies."

It is only 20 per cent of these categories I & II as requested by the Ministry. They needed amendment. They want 30 per cent drug should at least be manufactured. But what about Category III? Why did the Minister not request in the case of category II as he did for categories I & II which are essential drugs for the common people?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: This has been done consciously because Categories I & II are absolutely essential

and life saving drugs. They belong to a type of technology where the price factor is really of the crucial order. Therefore, we have covered this particular type of life saving drug. It is also because of the fact that present two public sector undertakings—IDPL and Hindustan Anti Biotics Limited are the only ones which produce 91 per cent of the total production of category I & II, H.A.L. produces 86 per cent of category I & II. There are some foreign companies which are producing only 2 per cent of category I & II. This category I & II being life saving drug has been put there and the condition is being stipulated that they will produce 20 per cent and also that 20 per cent will have to be covered by the Drug Price, etc. But we cannot force them because the licence which has been given to them does not stipulate this type of categorisation. I.D.R. Act is needed to be amended. The Minister of Industry says that they are having wholesale amendment of the Act and therefore, they cannot do it piece-meal. They are at it.

SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN: The Minister said Categories I & II are not coming under this. I explained to the Minister that Category III comes under this essential...

MR. SPEAKER: Your duty is not to explain but to ask.

SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN: Whether it is not a fact that the multi-nationals and their subsidiaries are reaping huge profits by concentrating on category III and IV formulations? If so what are the difficulties in asking them to devote at least 30 per cent of their capacities for producing essential drugs under category I and III, so as to ease the burden on the public sector? Is it not possible to arrive at a gentleman's agreement with multi-nationals for producing categories III and IV without waiting for a formal amendment to the Act?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Multi-nationals are business people. They are not gentlemen. I cannot have gentlemanly word with them. There

is no such question. They do business. There is nothing like a gentleman about it.

So far as the other question is concerned...

(Interruptions)

I am not saying that businessmen are not gentlemen. But my point is businessmen are essentially businessmen and they need not be gentlemen about it. After all they have to be business like—neither gentlemen nor ungentlemen. So far as the other aspect is concerned, the Drug Price Control Order promulgated takes care of the huge profits that they were making.

We have also constituted a Committee to go into profit making of these foreign drug multi-nationals and I expect the Report any day. We will take some steps where necessary.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: I want to know from the Minister—what is the distinction between a multi-national businessman and a gentleman?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: A gentleman is sometimes willing to undergo a loss for the sake of a friend. But businessman does not do it

छडी पंचवर्षीय योजना अवधि में मध्य प्रदेश में प्राथमिक विद्युतीकरण

+

* 1122. श्री छवि राम वर्मन :

श्री सुभाष आहुजा :

क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश के 50 प्रतिशत गांवों का छडी पंचवर्षीय योजना अवधि में विद्युतीकरण करने का विचार है ;

(ख) क्या छडी पंचवर्षीय योजना अवधि में मध्य प्रदेश में प्राथमिक विद्युतीकरण कार्यक्रम के लिए निर्धारित लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए पर्याप्त धनराशि उपलब्ध करने हेतु राज्य सरकार ने अनुरोध किया है ;

(ग) क्या राज्य सरकार द्वारा गांवों की सूची तैयार कर निर्धारित कर वी नहीं है और यदि नहीं, तो उसमें कितनी कमीशरी की गई है ;