

vessels carrying cargo from Andamans to Calcutta, or from Andamans to Madras. Some of these cargo vessels are waiting, particularly at Calcutta—and sometimes at Madras—for a number of months together. If this is the position, what is the extent of losses incurred by the ships, particularly by M. V. Shompen which is waiting even to-day for ten months and the losses incurred by the Shipping Corporation of India? What action is the Minister going to take in the matter?

**MR SPEAKER :** I think you have read the report of the Committee on Pulic Undertakings.

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL :** I have already made it clear that so far as losses are concerned resulting from the delay in getting berth, it is not the shipping companies or the port authorities who are going to bear the losses; they are borne by the exporter, importer or those companies who charter these ships.

**MR SPEAKER :** What about the Shipping Corporation?

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL :** The Shipping Corporation is owning ships; they are not chartering ships. They have got nearly 148 ships with them. Therefore, it is very difficult for us. We can go to those people who have chartered ships or importers and exporters, but it would take a very long time to contact those people and collect information.

**SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA :** This terrible congestion in the major ports of India is working to the detriment of the country's economy. You have already mentioned about the Nhava Shiva port that we are going to develop. In the 6th Lok Sabha, I had put a question about developing a new port on the western coast at Vadinar and assurance was given to me. The Government is a continuity. At Vadinar, there is a

natural harbour which can be developed in the interest of the country. There are deep waters and experiments have already been successful. Recently, I read the statement of the Chief Minister of Gujarat where he also advocated that Vadinar should be developed as a natural harbour and a major port in this country. Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether there are any concrete plans to develop Vadinar as a major and separate port and de-connected from Kandla?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Is it a relevant question?

**SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA :** It is a relevant question. Will you please enlighten us on this aspect?

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL :** The Hon. member is quite aware all our activities at Vadinar. He knows that we have got an off shore oil berth at Vadinar with a capacity of handling 12 million tonnes of crude oil every year and it is already functioning and the oil is being despatched. As the Hon. Member had suggested, there is a proposal which is under consideration to develop vadinar also for the construction of a berth but we have not been able to take a final decision so far.

#### Drug Advisory Committee

\*273. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Drug Controller has constituted a Drug Advisory Committee;

(b) if so, details of work done by it; and

(c) is it also a fact that the Subcommittee examined 34 types of fixed dose combination and found out that as many as 23 had no beneficial effect on human body and atleast 16 combinations were found to be harmful?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : (a) to (c). The Drugs Consultative Committee, which is a statutory body appointed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, consisting of representatives of Central and State Governments, has a Sub-Committee to screen various drug combinations marketed in the country and make recommendations regarding the weeding out of irrational formulations. The Sub-Committee, after examining 34 categories of fixed dose combination had initially recommended the weeding out of 23 categories as there was no therapeutic rationale. Of these 23 categories, the Sub-Committee felt that 16 categories are harmful combinations. In case of 7 categories, however, the Sub-Committee was of the view that they should be weeded out over a specific period of time. The Sub-Committee recorded the evidence of representative of drug manufacturers regarding justification for fixed dose combinations. The final report of the Sub-Committee has not yet been received. After the Sub-Committee submits its report, a meeting of the Drugs Consultative Committee will be called to consider the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee and a final view will be taken.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : This is really one of the harrowing stories that the House could hear. One of the most eminent drug experts in this region has said about the multinational drug firms. "I accuse them of double standards that is a medicine which is banned in their own country is easily saleable, obtainable and purchaseable in India and other developing countries." As he had already admitted, I find some information. Foreign drug companies numbering 60 would be covering as much as 80 per cent of the drug production, some of the miracle drugs which we think should be banned because they are banned in their own country. It means that

80 per cent of the Rs. 1150 crores of medicine market has been dumped with non-essential drugs. Prof. U.K. Seth of G. S. Medical College, Bombay has said that over Rs. 525 million are spent on drugs of doubtful clinical value. Here are the questions—or I will ask the questions later. I have something more juicy.

The Drug Controller of India said that Shri S.S. Pataskar, who headed the Drugs Consultative Committee, 1980, mentioned that the Sub-Committee examined 34 categories of fixed dose combinations, etc. I would like to ask a question, because it is a most gloomy picture. That means your Ministry have utterly and miserably failed to protect the countrymen from the lot of the multi-nationals on two counts. One, from the sale of useless drugs and.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Put the question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Even these people have become advocates of multi-nations looting the country.

Secondly, they are selling injurious and dangerous drugs in the country. This Drug Committee was constituted in 1980, I understand. Is that right? When is the final report of the Sub-Committee to be received? Why is it that from 1980 till today, i.e. for more than a year and half this report is not received? And, is he aware of the fact that the Sub-Committee after examining had said that seven categories needed be weeded out, under what circumstances they needed to be weeded out, in a phased manner? This is the information I want.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The latest information that I have at this moment is that the Sub-Committee has submitted its report yesterday only. The Sub-Committee's report has to be examined by the Consultative Committee

headed by the Drug Controller of India and for that one month's notice has to be given. And the Consultative Committee will examine the recommendations given by the Sub-Committee and then action will be taken.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** This reminds me of what we did in this House. The Patent Bill was allowed to lapse at least through three Lok Sabhas. The Drug Manufacturers' Association, the Owners' Association, they have got pocketful of money and nothing can be done which will harm them and to protect the people of this country. Will the Minister assure that the report will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is ready, within one month? Can he give that assurance? That is number one. My second question is about the antibiotic antitrust case which the Government of India had instituted against seven companies. I am quoting from a letter which I have received from Washington. According to the Patents Act, it would have meant that we paid enormous price for drugs which are of no use or little use and we preferred a claim before the Philadelphia District-Court in the United States. And I understand that after Reagan came to power some understanding was reached and the Government of India had withdrawn the case. Will the Hon. Minister kindly tell us whether the formulators that he had indicated in his reply to the question include Pfizer, American Cynamide Company, Bristol-Myers Company, E. R. Squibb & Sons, the Upjohn Company Squibb Inc., and Olive Corporation? If so what action has been taken against such firms for having infringed the law?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** Regarding the first part of the question of the Hon. Member, I say that this report of the Sub-Committee and its recommendations will be finally examined by the Consultative Com-

mittee. Then it will come to the Government. Government will examine the report and the question of laying it on the Table of the House will arise then. I cannot say anything at this moment.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** Is he prepared to lay it on the Table or not, and if so how soon?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** The report has not yet come to the Government. How can I say whether I can lay it on the Table or not? It has been submitted to the Consultative Committee.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** Who constitute the Consultative Committee? You are the administrative Ministry. Why are you trying to evade?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** There is a consultative committee which is a statutory body appointed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, headed by the Drug Controller of India. In that committee, two representatives from the Drug Controller's office and two representatives from the Drug Controller's office of each State sit.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** The administrative ministry is yours.

**MR. SPEAKER :** No discussion like this.

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** This sub-committee was appointed by the consultative committee and not by the Government. It has submitted its report to the consultative committee and it is yet to be examined. So far as the second part of the question is concerned, I do not come into the picture at all, because the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers is concerned with it.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :**  
I would like to put a question on the implementation of the recommendations of such committees.

Psychotropic or mind-acting drugs are supposed to be sold strictly on medical prescription only. But it is well known that these drugs are freely available in the market if you are prepared to pay a higher price without any prescription. For instance, there was a case in Delhi last year where a person was caught with 7000 Mandrax tablets which he said he purchased from Agra. I would like to know from the Minister whether there is any deterrent law against such offences and if so, is a tightening of such law being contemplated ?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :**  
The question mainly relates to the 34 categories of fixed dose combinations. I think the supplementary does not relate to the main question.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :**  
It is a question of implementation of recommendations of such committees. What is the use if they remain on paper and are not implemented ? Is there a law which is acting as a deterrent against this ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Shri Niren Ghosh.

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH :** May I know the terms of reference of this advisory committee ? Is it also examining the fact that these drug companies do not produce life-saving drugs but produce drugs which are harmful for the health of the people ? If so, may I know whether the Government will black-list those companies and will never give any more licence for expansion of their capacity, whether in the name of new technology or otherwise ?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :**  
This question relates to the specific

34 categories of fixed dose combinations. This question relates to that only. When the consultative committee appointed this sub-committee, depending on the reports given by the zonal offices of the Central Drug Controller's Office, these 34 formulations were examined by the sub-committee and this report has been submitted.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I, hope the Minister will look into this matter, because this concerns the health of the people of India. Immediate action should be taken and there should be no delay.

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :**  
That is the reason why we appointed that committee.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Next question. Shri Chintamani Jena—absent. Shri Jai Narain Roat—absent. What has happened today ? It seems to be a complete day for furlough ; I think they are all tired. Prof. Narain Chand Parashar—absent. Shri Satya Deo Singh—absent. Shri Jagpal Singh—absent. What a galaxy ! I saw him this morning. Shri Ajit Kumar Mehta.

\* 278 **SHRI JAGPAL SINGH :**  
**PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :**

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government with regard to the annual deaths in the country because of road accidents ;

(b) if so, details thereof, and

(c) measures proposed to be taken by the Government to minimise such deaths ?

**THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEER-  
ENDRA PATIL) :** (a) to (c). Statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.