

Carbon Ltd. of West Bengal in view of the fact that there are about 150 people who have been thrown out of employment.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As I have said, because of the closure of the Barauni refinery and shortfall in imports last year, we could not meet the requirements of the units which require about 3 lakhs tonnes of RPC for their complete production. However, their production capacity is low and it is 60 per cent and therefore, we have assessed the requirements at 240,000 tonnes and there will be no shortfall this year because we have made arrangements for the import of one lakh tonnes of RPC.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We have a Yojana Bhavan and we talk about Plan and planned economy means mainly supply of raw material and to make it a certainly, personnel, market and a cushion in between in every sphere. I have been writing to the Government from 1977. The Minister has just now said about the Barauni closure. But is it not a recent phenomenon? And is it not also a fact that the rival company in Haldia having a powerful lobby in Delhi and greasing the palms adequately, is getting preferential treatment as compared to the India Carbon Ltd? I would like to ask the hon. Minister to tell us specifically this.

He has stated in his reply that instructions have been issued to the Indian Oil Corporation to import additional quantities of raw petroleum coke to meet the requirements. Would he kindly give the exact date of giving such instructions to the IOC? And also would he kindly tell us this. He says that India Carbon Ltd., Budge Budge has been advised to contact the Indian Oil Corporation in the matter.

Will he give the date of such advice? How soon does he think that India Carbon Ltd., Budge Budge

will be getting at least a reasonable supply of this raw petroleum coke to run the factory which has laid off 150 workers and 450 stomachs starving on the streets?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, I do not have the dates with me but I can assure the hon. Member that imports have been tied up for 1981-82 to the tune of 1 lakh tonnes and Budge Budge factory would be getting their full quota of 22,000 tonnes and there would be no difficulty. However, I would like to add that while taking into account the Budge Budge factory's closure we have taken into consideration this import question and apart from that the other unit of this factory at Gauhati was getting its full supply from Gauhati and Digboi.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, he has not replied to my question. I know Mr. Sethi since 1962. Earlier he was doing his homework. I do not know about now. Sir, he has said instructions have been issued to the Indian Oil Corporation to import additional quantities. I want to know the exact date when the instructions were issued. Secondly, Indian Carbon Ltd. has been advised to contact IOC in the matter. I would also like to know the exact date when they were advised to contact IOC.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, I am not having the dates. If the hon. Member is interested in the dates I will write to him.

Availability of Life Saving Drugs

*870. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of important drugs through a national net work has proved a flop;

(b) if not, why life saving drugs are not available at the shops; and

(c) the actual sales made so far during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The supply of canalised bulk drugs through State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Ltd. has generally been quite satisfactory.

(b) Shortages of specific brands of a few essential and life-saving drugs have been reported periodically from different places. In several of these cases, however, equivalents are reportedly available. There are various reasons for shortages, such as, industrial unrest, power cuts, limited availability/non-availability of raw materials in the international markets etc.

(c) The number of essential and life-saving formulations runs into thousands. Their sales are not monitored. It would, not, therefore be possible to furnish information regarding the actual sales of such formulations.

SHRI R. P. DAS: Sir, the question was whether life saving drugs are available in the market and whether Government had a national network for distribution of the drugs all over the country. The Minister has not replied to that question. I would like to know whether Government has any network to distribute these life saving drugs through any national distribution system. This question has two aspects—production as well as distribution. Unless the Government has a grip over the production and procurement of drugs, I know, it is useless to speak of any public distribution. The Minister has replied to the production aspect of the question only which is also incomplete.

I would also like to know whether it is true that the multi-national drug companies are producing less life saving drugs. If so, what is the ratio of their present production to their earlier production?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): The hon. Member has referred to the question of national network. All we know about the arrangement that has been made is that the bulk drugs are imported through the State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Ltd. in a canalised manner and then they are distributed. They are being distributed. There is a distribution policy, according to which the small drug manufacturers get their full entitlement plus some 50 per cent more in some cases. Keeping in view their growth rate, they can get 50 per cent more than the previous year's allotment. This is what is being done. As far as the DGTD units are concerned, they are getting the same according to their own licensed capacity. Therefore, these requirements are met by imports. As has already been pointed out, some of the international companies have not been manufacturing bulk drugs but now, whenever they come for any expansion, it has been made compulsory for them to produce bulk drugs, out of which 50 per cent they have to give for formulations.

SHRI R. P. DAS: My question was this: These multinational companies are not now producing the required quantity of life-saving drugs in accordance with the increasing demand of such drugs in the country. They are producing mainly vitamins and so on of which 80 per cent of their production is vitamin drugs. My second question is this: May I know why some of these life-saving drugs have not been made available in some of the States? Some of these life-saving drugs are not available in West Bengal, for instance. Quite a few days back it had come to our notice that these were not available in Delhi also. They were not available in the Central Government's Health Scheme Hospitals. So, I just want to know from the hon. Minister whether this is true or not.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, it is a fact that on account of closure of some two or three important factories like CIBA, FEIZER and one more company in Bombay, production of some of the drugs had to suffer. But at the same time, the hon. Member would appreciate that we have been trying to meet the shortfall through these imports. As far as the shortfall in these life-saving drugs is concerned, they have been met by imports. Of course there can be periodical shortages in certain markets. Whenever we get any report from the Drug Controller that there is any shortage anywhere, we do rush sufficient quantities of equivalent drugs which are available. I have got here with me the names of some 16 items which were in short supply. I would give only one example. ADELPHANE ESIDREX tablets were produced by CIBA. This factory was closed. We are supplying substitute tablets SAR-PALZINE produced by GENO PHARMA. This equivalent has to be supplied because CIBA is closed we can't help it. As I have already pointed out, the requirements of such drugs which were in short supply have been met through the equivalents which have been available in the market.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आँकड़ों के पचड़े में नहीं जाना चाहती कि कितनी दवाइयाँ मिलती हैं और कितनी नहीं मिलती हैं। मैं केवल यह जानना चाहती हूँ—क्या आप कोई ऐसी नीति निर्धारित करने जा रहे हैं जिस से आम जनता को लाइफ सेविंग ड्रग मिल सके ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As I have already pointed out, all possible efforts are being made to see that the production of life-saving drugs in the country improves and some of our public sector companies are also producing these life-saving drugs. Whatever may be the shortfall, we are also trying to meet these by imports.

श्री रामबिलास पातवान : जब से यह सरकार आई है, जीवन रक्षक दवाइयाँ तो क्या, जहर भी मिलना मुश्किल हो गया है। इसी सदन में कम से कम दर्जनों बार जीवन रक्षक दवाइयों के बारे में चर्चा चली है। आप मार्केट्स और विभिन्न अस्पतालों में जायें तो बड़ी दवाइयों की बात तो दूर, छोटी-छोटी दवाइयाँ भी उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। अभी दो सप्ताह पूर्व मैंने इस सदन में इस सवाल को उठाया था कि एक तरफ तो सरकार पोलियो के लिये टी० बी० और रेडियो से प्रचार करवाती है कि यदि पोलियो का टीका नहीं लगवायेंगे तो बच्चों का जीवन खतरे में पड़ सकता है, लेकिन दूसरी तरफ यह टीका उपलब्ध नहीं है। जब मालूम किया जाता है तो कहा जाता है कि बम्बई में टेस्टिंग के लिये गया है।

मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ— पोलियो की दवा न होने से करोड़ों बच्चों का जीवन खतरे में पड़ गया है, टी० बी० का पहला इंजेक्शन लगने के बाद यदि दूसरा इंजेक्शन समय पर न लगने से जो इंजेक्शन गैप हो जायगा तो पहले इंजेक्शन का महत्व समाप्त हो जायगा, इसी तरह से यदि पागल कृत्ता काटता है, उसका यदि इंजेक्शन-गैप हो जायगा तो पहले इंजेक्शन का असर नहीं रहेगा—ऐसी दवाइयाँ जिनके कारण करोड़ों व्यक्तियों को मौत से जूझना पड़ रहा है—ऐसी दवाइयों को उपलब्ध कराने के लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठाना चाहती है। इन कमियों के कारण क्या हैं ? अगर सरकार इस सदन को विश्वास दिलायेगी कि भविष्य में इन दवाइयों की कमी नहीं रहेगी ?

श्री प्रकाश चन्द सेठी : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जैसा मैंने कहा, तीन चार कंपनियों में हड़ताल चलने के कारण कुछ ड्रग्स के उत्पादन में कमी आई है और मैं सदन को यह नताना

बाह्या कि हमन हर संभव उपाय किये हैं कि जहाँ कहीं भी कमी हो, उस कमी को पूरा किया जाए या तो अल्टर-नेटिव ड्रग्स से और या इम्पोर्ट से। उसी प्रकार से जहाँ जहाँ शिकायतें आती हैं ड्रग्स कन्ट्रोलर से, इस कमी को पूरा करने की कोशिश की जा रही है और माननीय सदस्य ने जो पोलियो और टी० बी० का जिक्र किया है, मैं विशेष रूप से इस तरफ ध्यान दे कर उस में जो भी कमी होगी, उस को पूरा करने की कोशिश करूँगा।

श्री कमल नाथ झा : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप के माध्यम से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सर्प-डंस और कुत्ते के काटने के जो रोगी होते हैं, उन में अधिकांश गांवों में बसने वाले गरीब लोग ही होते हैं और प्रखंड स्तर पर कोई भी सर्प डंस की दवा और कुत्ते के काटने की दवा आज तक उपलब्ध नहीं हो सकी है, जिसके चलते गांवों के गरीब लोग बड़े अस्पतालों में पहुंचते-पहुंचते या तो मर जाते हैं या तबाह और बरबाद हो जाते हैं। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या समाजवादी सरकार की कोई ऐसी नीति है कि ऐसी भयानक स्थिति का मुकाबला करने के लिए गांवों में ब्लाक स्तर पर कुत्ते काटने और सर्प डंस की दवाइयां मुहैया की जायें।

श्री प्रकाश चन्द्र सेठी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जहाँ जहाँ भी ग्रामीण अंचलों में अस्पताल हैं, वहाँ कुत्ते काटने के इंजेक्शन और सर्प डंस की दवाइयों के इन्तजाम है।(व्यवधान).....

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : नहीं है।

श्री छोटे सिंह यादव : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, गांवों के अस्पतालों में फिज

नहीं है और कुत्ते काटने की भी दवा होती है, वह बिना फिज के नहीं रखी जा सकती है। ये जो बात कह रहे हैं, यह तथ्यों से परे है।... (व्यवधान)...

श्री जगपाल सिंह : गांव के आप के किसी अस्पताल में फिज नहीं है। इसलिए कुत्ते काटने की दवा वहां होने का कोई सवाल ही नहीं है।

(व्यवधान)

श्री प्रकाश चन्द्र सेठी : जहाँ जहाँ हेल्थ सर्विस सेंटर हैं, वहाँ पर यह इन्तजाम माफूल नहीं है, यह बात सही है। अब इस सम्बन्ध में तो हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री ही त्वरित और उचित कदम उठा सकती है।

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: It appears that the hon. Minister is living in an ivory tower. The actual fact is that no life drugs are available in any of the major cities, not to talk about towns, districts and rural areas. The poor people are not getting them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this Government has at all any comprehensive drug policy for production and distribution of drugs. Now, the previous regime had appointed a Committee known as the Chavda Committee. They made certain specific recommendations as to how these drugs should be distributed on a scientific basis. They have also pointed out how profiteering is going on as far as the distribution of these drugs is concerned how under hand dealings are being carried out by certain vested interests in this business. I would like to know whether the Chavda Committee report would be placed on the Table of the House. How many recommendations of the Chavda Committee have been accepted by the Government?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, on the Chavda Committee, there is a separate question. However, I would like

to point out that the Chavda Committee was the Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry and as such whatever they have given is not a report but a recommendation only. However, we have gone through those recommendations and they had suggested that the drugs should be imported in a canalised manner and the previous Government also adopted this policy and since then the drugs are being imported in a canalised manner. That brings down the prices because we go to the foreign markets for purchase of bulk drugs in a bulk manner. I can quote statistics whereby the imports have reduced the prices of these imported drugs. Similarly, the Chavda Committee had made certain suggestions in respect of the Canalised drugs. The canalised drugs were being charged service charges, voyage charges and sales-tax. As regards sales-tax, the canalised items are sold to the third party, and therefore, avoidance of sales tax is not possible and to that extent, sales tax is there. After the Chavda Committee report, the other charges, voyage charges and service charges were reduced. Whatever was being charged previously is not being charged now.

Secondly, the imports were done through the IDPL. The Committee had suggested that the imports should not be done through the IDPL. That has now been stopped and the IDPL are not getting any margin or profit out of it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: The hon. Minister has not replied to my question whether the recommendations of the Chavda Committee will be placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: According to my information as also para 13(5) of Chapter 13 of the Manual for handling of parliamentary work in the Ministries the deliberations of the Consultative Committee are considered informal and purely advisory and no reference to them can be made on the floor of the House either by the Minister or by the Members of the Committee.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: In answer to the main question, the Minister has stated that there may be short supply of these drugs here and there, but that is not the overall position. In this context, I would like to know what the machinery of the Minister's knowledge is because that is contrary to the knowledge of the whole House. According to our knowledge, these drugs are not available, but for him, these are available.

Secondly, is the Minister aware that as soon as there is a short supply of any drug, even if after some time a substitute is introduced, the prices are raised. How does it happen? The price of tetracycline capsule which used to be 39 paise is now 75 paise in the market. Similarly, resticlin is selling at Rs. 3-00 per capsule. All this hike is because they take advantage of the short supply of drugs. What has the Minister got to say in this respect and how is he going to ensure proper prices of these drugs?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: As far as the question of information is concerned, we receive the information of shortage of drugs through the state Drug Controllers and Zonal officers of the Central Drugs standard control organisation appointed by the Health Ministry and the State Governments throughout India. However, I would not only depend on the reports of the drug controllers, I would rather like to depend on the hon. Members of the House who are complaining about the shortage of these medicines and about the prices. I will take cognizance of this and wherever shortfall are noticed, we will try to take corrective measures.

Request for World Bank Loan for Mahanadi Exploration

*871. **SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil India has approached the World Bank for a loan for the Mahanadi exploration programme; and

(b) if so, the amount asked for and the response from the World Bank?