

like to know from him why these Conventions are not being ratified and whether this is not, in fact, a reflection of the fact that the Government is not prepared to abide by those Conventions.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : About the two Conventions that the hon. Member has referred to, it is true that the Government of India has not yet ratified and there are genuine difficulties in ratifying those two Conventions.....

SHRI CHITTA BASU : What are the difficulties ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : If the hon. Member wants to know about that, he has to put a separate question. I do not have that information readily available with me. But I can only say that these two Conventions and the Bills that are before parliament have no inter-connection.

Implementation of Schedule A Drugs and Cosmetics Act

*311. **SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) how many times Government have deferred a decision on the implementation of Schedule V of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act;

(b) reasons for such deferment; and

(c) Government's policy regarding such matters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R.C. RATH : (a) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare laid down the standards for Patent and Proprietary medicines containing multivitamins in July 1978. For implementing the standards, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare allowed time to the manufacturers up to 30th June, 1979. The implementation required, inter alia, the fixation of the prices of such medicines. The issue of prices was deferred on three occasions.

(b) The deferment was mainly on account of (i) the updating of costs of the various inputs in the medicines, (ii) decision on the mark-up to be allowed on such medicines. Govt. had received a number of representations from a number of manufacturers and their Associations on these issues. These issues were examined in consultation with various Ministries and in interministerial forums.

(c) Government is keen on implementation of the standards referred to in (a) above. Taking into account all relevant factors and having regard to the sentiments expressed in the Parliament in this regard, Government have issued the prices of the medicines. The prices fixed by the Govt., in most cases, show considerable reduction from the current prices charged by the manufacturers, and would benefit the consumers.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : The hon. Minister in his reply in part (c) says :

“The prices fixed by the Government, in most cases, show considerable reduction from the current prices charged by the manufacturers and would benefit the consumer.”

Now, I would like to know the actual implication of “considerable reduction.” I want to know what is the ceiling fixed by Schedule V of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act on the maximum profits/returns on the total sale turnover and what is the price fixed by the Government of the drugs of all categories separately. Is there any difference between the ceiling price and the price fixed by the Government ? If so, why and how much ?

Mr. SPEAKER : A very pertinent question. ●

SHRI R.C. RATH : I would like to inform the House that the sentiments on this issue expressed in the past by the Hon. Members of both Houses of Parliament were taken into consideration by the Government. A decision on the price was taken on 12th instant.

We have reduced the prices by giving 60% mark up and for the information of the House, I give a few examples.

BECOSULE CAPSULES 20 CAPSULES : Price being currently charged is Rs. 8.81. Revised price is Rs 6.13 and the percentage benefit to the consumer is to the tune of 30.41%.

BECOSULE 100 CAPSULE BOTTLE : Rs. 32.97 is the present price and the reduction is Rs 26.89. The percentage benefit to the consumer is about 18.44%.

BECOSOLE SYRUP PFIZER LTD. 50 ml BOTTLE : Price currently charged is Rs. 4.96. 60% mark up was given on 12th instant. Revised price is Rs 3.72 and the percentage benefit to the consumer is 25%.

SERBATEX-T TABLET (100 TABLETS) : Rs 32.88.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : All these things could have been stated in the statement.

SHRI R.C. RATH : There are about 746 formulations. This decision was taken on 12th instant. Orders have been issued. I can lay them on the Table of the House. But I have read out the information to the Hon. Member in order to indicate the reduction we have made and the benefit which the consumers of this country would get out of the 60% mark-up which the Government has arrived at.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : The Minister has given a very clever reply. My question is different. In the 5th Schedule in Category 'A', the large units with turn over exceeding Rs 6 crores per annum having neither the basic manufacturing activity nor any

research activity have been given the maximum pre tax reduction of 8%. I would like to know what is the percentage in terms of reduction, in respect of every one of all the categories of units in the 5th Schedule.

SHRI R.C. RATH : The limits fixed under DPCO 1979 on profitability are between 8 to 13%. The individual profitability of the companies is yet to be studied.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : The Hon. Minister has not given an appropriate reply to my question.

Import of Crude and Petroleum Products

*313. **SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of Crude and Petroleum Products imported during the year 1981-82 and 1982-83 and the amount spent thereon;

(b) the quantity of crude and petroleum products likely to be imported during the year 1983-84 and the amount involved ;

(c) whether it is a fact that this year the import is less than last year, if so, by how much and the amount likely to be saved; and

(d) steps being taken increase the indigenous production of crude so that the import may be reduced and stopped to save foreign exchange ?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय के पेट्रोलियम विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री गार्गी शंकर मिश्र) : (क), (ख), (ग) और (घ) एक विवरण पत्र सभा पटल पर प्रस्तुत है।