

श्री टी० अंबड्या : स्टैंडिंग कमेटी क्या करने वाली है, वह कोई जबरदस्ती बुलाकर शादी करने वाली नहीं है। यदि आप लोग एक कमरे में घुस जायें, तो वह तो होने वाला नहीं है। जसा मैं आपसे पहले ही कह चुका हूँ कि यह तमाम पोलिटिकल बेसिस यूनियन्स हैं, इससे हम इन्कार नहीं कर सकते हैं।

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what happened to the Industrial Relations Bill which had been brought forward by the previous Government under the leadership of the then hon. Minister, Shri Ravindra Varma. What is the fate of that Bill?

श्री टी० अंबड्या : वह तो लंका बहन हो गया, उसका कोई मतलब नहीं है।

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: At the time of Emergency, some of the unions of the Public Sector Undertakings were derecognised pending the decision of the Government in regard to the formation of the Unions by secret ballot, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is contemplating to recognise the major unions in the public sector undertakings. I would also like to know whether the Government will give proper instructions to the public sector undertakings that at the time of Emergency those unions which had been derecognised due to political affiliations should now be recognised.

श्री टी० अंबड्या : इमरजेंसी की बात जो आपने कही है, मैं समझता हूँ कि जनता पार्टी के कोल्यूनन से जो यूनियन डी-रिकगनाइज हो गया है, आप मुझे बतला दें। अगर किसी मालिक या गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से डी-रिकगनाइज हो गया है, जो अनकांस्टीट्यूशनल है, तो

उसको रिकगनाइज करने की पूरी कोशिश करेंगे।

Controversy on Brand and Generic Names of Drugs

*683. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:**

SHRI K. MALLANNA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether the controversy on the brand and generic names is hotting up and Government have proposed to amend the rule in order to ensure that generic names are printed in more conspicuous manner than the brand names on drug labels;

(b) whether Indian Drug Manufacturers Association has strongly resented Government's proposal; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (c) A statement is placed on the table of the Sabha.

Statement

Government propose to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules so that the proper name of the drug is printed or written in a more conspicuous manner than the trade name, if any, which shall be shown immediately after or under the proper name. This proposal is in pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceutical industry (Hathi Committee) which had gone in depth into the question of substitution of brand names of drugs by generic names. The Committee had recommended that brand names should be abolished in a phased manner as this step would be in the right direction for rational practice of medicine, in the interest of the consumers' as well in the general national interest. The Indian Drug Manufacturers Association has opposed the proposed amendment as they apprehend that it

would result in dilution of the importance of their established brand names from which the industry is deriving benefits.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: After the receipt of the Hathi Committee report and its recommendations, there was a strong resentment from the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association about implementation of the recommendations. The Government has to look to the interest of the public and the consumers. What is the decision of the Government in regard to these recommendations?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: The draft amendment of Rule 96, clause 1 of Drug and Cosmetic Rules for the purpose has been prepared in consultation with the Ministry of Law and will be placed before the Drug Advisory Board at their next meeting. So, it is all under consideration.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Are the Government going to implement the Hathi Committee report or not? I want a categorical answer.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: In principle, we accept most of the recommendations of the Hathi Committee, but as I said, it is still under consideration.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: The Hathi Committee has recommended the substitution of brand names of drugs by generic names, and abolition of brand names in a phased manner. What steps have the Government taken so far as this recommendation is concerned and in what way has it helped the consumer?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: As I said, the draft amendment has already been prepared and circulated; it is under consideration. What is proposed to be achieved by this amendment is to give better prominence to the proper generic names vis-a-vis the trade name which is known as the brand name. In the pharmaceutical industry, aggressive

promotion of sales is being resorted to on the basis of brand names resulting in the domination of the market by drug firms having larger resources at their disposal.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: What steps have the Government taken on the Hathi Committee report? That has not been answered.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: I said that it is under consideration.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: The brand names are also associated with different formulations of each generic drug, as for example, the streptomycin brand of Burroughs Wellcome differs in formulations etc. with streptomycin by some other companies. In these formulations, there are certain ingredients which cover or control the reaction or shock and, therefore, the brand names are not only market names, as you have said and that it might dilute their sales. What exactly is the content of the opposition from the drug industry to this? You have only given your opinion that it might dilute their sales.

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: We have received the objections and are looking into those. We have not yet finally taken a decision.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Is it a fact whether the multi-national drug companies get their products manufactured by other concerns and then sell those under their own brand names, for example, Dumex and Bayer's do this and sell these at higher prices? Will the Government take effective steps to stop this mal-practice? Does the Government know about it?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: As I said all these expects are under consideration.