

ties in TB because the BCG vaccination which for 30 years we thought, is going to be effective for preventing TB, is no longer effective. I remember having seen some research papers in which it was told that the BCG is no longer effective in preventing TB. Would the hon. Minister let this House know whether in fact, the finding has been borne out by subsequent research; if so what is being done to develop a new therapeutic drug to prevent TB? It has been abolished in Europe. It is a disgrace and shame that we still have it in India. What measures have been taken by the Government?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I am not in a position to give an off-hand reply to this. If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I will be in a position to reply.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: With reference to the drugs mentioned here, whether the Government is aware of the fact that prices of some drugs such as Myanbutol and Ripharmed have gone down within the last few weeks? For instance, in the case of Myanbutol, it was selling at Rs. 78 per hundred a few weeks back and it is now being sold at Rs. 33.50. In the case of Ripharmed, it was selling at Rs. 14.50 per strip of four capsules and now, it is being sold at Rs. 8.80. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the drug manufacturers have represented to his Ministry that in view of falling prices their profitability is low and that they should be allowed to increase the prices. If so, what is the reaction of the Ministry in this regard?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: In certain cases, the prices have gone down and in certain other cases, the prices have gone up. There is a demand from the drug manufacturers that for the last three years, there has not been any increase in the prices and that they should be allowed to increase the prices. I will look into that. That is all I can say at the moment.

Demand from Bihar for more Food-grain

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*89. **SHRI N. E. HORO:**

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bihar Government has sent an SOS to the Centre demanding increased allotment of foodgrains to meet the requirements of the 'famine areas' in the State;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is acute shortage of food and practically no stock is now left in the seven worst drought-hit-tribal districts including Singhbhum, Ranchi, Palamau, Dhanbad, Hazaribagh, Giridih, Monghyr, and Santhal Parganas; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) It is a fact that the Government of Bihar have from time to time been pressing for higher allotment of foodgrains. •

(b) According to the State Government it is not a fact that the eight districts mentioned in the Question had no stock of foodgrains. There is adequate stock of foodgrains in Bihar with the FCI and the State Government and all possible efforts are being made to ensure their availability at individual depots according to need.

(c) In order that adequate supplies of foodgrains are maintained, the Railways have been requested to move a minimum of a lakh tonnes of foodgrains per month to the State.

SHRI N. E. HORO: Is the Member aware of the fact that in a large number of Panchayats of the 8 districts which are mentioned in the question the relief works had to be stopped

because till today 12,000 metric tonnes of foodgrains meant for relief work, has not been given to the workers for the last two months? This shows that the Minister's answer is wrong, because there is no sufficient stock of foodgrains and that is why, the relief works could not be carried on.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: The information supplied is absolutely correct. I would give the position of food stocks in each district mentioned by the hon. Member. The position of food stock upto 8th of this month is like this Singhbhum—4,555 tonnes, Ranchi—4,852 tonnes, Palamau—3,651 Dhanbad—7,817, Hazaribagh—2,431 Monghyr—1,746, Giridih—2,554 and Santhal Parganas—4,932. The Bihar state has also its food stock of over 42,000 tonnes as on 1-2-80. The real problem is not supplying foodgrains to some of the interior areas is on account of the difficulty in inter-district movement by road, and that is being speeded up.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Incentives to Sugar Mills as Recommended by Sampath Committee

*87 **SHRI CHANDRABHAN ATHARE PATIL:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the incentives as recommended by Sampath Committee which were given to the new sugar mills due to their heavy capital investments has not been given during the last two years resulting in heavy losses to the new units as well as to the expanded units of the sugar industry; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereto and the steps which are being taken to revive the said incentives?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) and (b). The scheme introduced in December, 1975 to make

new sugar factories and expansion projects, established at high capital Cost, economically viable became in-operative in August, 1978 consequent on the removal of all controls on prices, movement and distribution of sugar. After the reintroduction of partial control on sugar with dual pricing mechanism with effect from December 17, 1979, and inter-Ministerial Group has been constituted to review and revise the scheme taking into account the changed parameters to facilitate a decision by the Government in the matter.

दिल्ली में टेलीफोन सेवा

*90. श्री एन० के० राजवत्कर : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सम्पूर्ण भारत में, विशेषकर दिल्ली में टेलीफोन सेवा बहुत खराब है, डाइल करने पर गलत नम्बर मिल जाता है, सेवा-टेलीफोनो पर 5-10 मिनट तक ध्यान नहीं किया जाता है और एस० टी० डी० लाइनें या तो खराब रहती है या फिर उन पर गलत नम्बर मिल जाते हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हा, तो सेवा में सुधार के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री सी० एस० स्टीफन) : (क) जैसा कि प्रश्न में उल्लेख किया गया है, टेलीफोन सेवा में यदा-कदा खराबी होने की शिकायतें हैं। सेवा में खराबी होने के विभिन्न कारण हैं, जो आंशिक रूप से यान्त्रिक तथा आंशिक रूप से मानवीय हैं। सेवा में खराबी होने का यान्त्रिक कारण मौजूदा लाइनों पर यातायात का अधिक भार होना तथा टेलीफोन सेवा प्रणाली में कुछ स्वभाविक दोष होना है।

(ख) यान्त्रिक खराबियों को दूर करने और चरणबद्ध कार्यक्रम द्वारा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक प्रणाली तेजी से लागू करने के प्रयत्न बराबर जारी हैं। एक्सचेंजों की विशेष सेवाओं के कार्यकरण में सुधार लाने के लिए भी प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।

जहां तक एस० टी० डी० का प्रश्न है, सेवा में सुधार लाने के लिए नये सुधमतरंग/सहस्ररीय सर्किट जोड़े जा रहे हैं और लैक्ट्रॉनिक टी० ए० एक्स० के आदेश दे दिए गये हैं।