

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: There was the practice of the Burmah Shell to enter into contracts of supply of crude oil with various companies. May I know at the time of taking over whether those contracts are availed of and crude supply is available?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: No, Sir. I do not think that we have been tied up with any forward contracts so far as the Bharat Refineries are concerned. There was certain pattern of commitment between the companies which were owned by the Burmah Shell and the Burmah Shell refineries. All that we have done is that we have left the option open. It does not create any obligation on our part to purchase crude from them. We can purchase from wherever we like.

Suggestions made by Commissioner of Railway Safety for Quick Payment of compensation

*33 **SHRI N K SANGHI** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had asked the Commissioner of Railways Safety to suggest ways which would help the railway authorities to pay compensation more quickly than at present;

(b) if so, the present experience of the railway authorities and the impediments coming in their way of quick disbursement of compensation money; and

(c) what are the suggestions of the Commissioner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise

SHRI N. K. SANGHI: May I know instead of appointing the Claims Officer whenever an accident takes place

is there any proposal to appoint a permanent Claims Officer to obviate delays and also in view of the large number of railway accidents taking place?

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI: We have appointed judicial officer as claims officer because the incumbent of this post has to go down minutely into the claims of claimants.

SHRI N K. SANGHI: May I know how many claims are pending with the railways since they have increased the compensation from Rs 30,000 to Rs. 50,000. Secondly, what is the position regarding claims in regard to Matunga-Sion accident which took place on the 12th February?

SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI: Sir, I do not have these details with me at the present moment. I will supply the information separately.

Expansion of Drug Industry in Public Sector

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*34 **SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA:**
SHRI D. D. DESAI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having any proposal to expand the public sector; Drug Industry; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI C P MAJHI): (a) and (b) The expansion of the public sector drug units on the basis

of the feasibility reports envisage the following:—

Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited

- (i) Expansion of the Synthetic Drugs Plant, Hyderabad, involving an investment of Rs. 21.79 crores which would increase the production capacity from 1968 tonnes to 3886 tonnes.
- (ii) Establishment of a Nicotnamide Plant in Bihar involving an estimated capital outlay of Rs. 8.58 crores.
- (iii) Establishment of a New Formulation Unit in Gurgaon Haryana at an estimated capital outlay of Rs. 8.10 crores.
- (iv) Expansion of the Antibiotics Plant, Rishikesh, involving an approximate investment of Rs. 15.69 crores.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a long statement?

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The rest of it may be laid on the Table.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: How can we put supplementaries then?

MR. SPEAKER: I appreciate it. But it is a long statement. It should have been laid on the Table.

Rest of the Statement

Hindustan Antibiotics Limited

- (i) Expansion of the capacity of Penicillin Plant involving an estimated capital outlay of Rs. 2.92 crores.
- (ii) Expansion of the Streptomycin Plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.91 crores.

(iii) Expansion of Semi-Synthetic Penicillin Plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.67 crores.

(iv) Establishment of Erythromycin plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.16 crores.

(v) Establishment of New Formulation plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.46 crores.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: Is it a fact that the multi national corporations in the drug industry are having the monopoly of certain major drugs? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to see that their hold on our drug industry is reduced?

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: We are giving the public sector drug industry a leadership role. Of course, the drug industry in India has historically developed and there are certain drugs which are actually manufactured by private sector drug factories.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: asked about major drugs.

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: Unless these major drugs are identified, I cannot say with certainty if their manufacture is controlled by foreign multinationals.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: The Hathi Committee Report is there.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: My question is not yet answered. Anyway I will put my second supplementary. Are Government considering a proposal to expand the public sector by taking over the foreign drug companies so that the high rate of profit earned by these companies can be diverted to the public sector?

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: We have not contemplated to nationalise the multinational companies so far. We are at

present expanding the public sector drug industry; slowly the public sector drug industry will be given a leadership role.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: The question is regarding takeover of the foreign monopolies.

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: As I said, we have not taken a decision to take over the multi-national companies.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: A letter of intent for the production of doxycyclene 5-tonne capacity has been given to IDPL. A letter of intent has also been given to one Indian firm for production of doxycyclene 2.5-tonne capacity. Our country is just self-sufficient in antibiotics. In the drug industry, if a lead is established, it is impossible to come up and compete with the leader. Keeping this in mind will the Minister assure the House that licence for doxycycline will not be given to any foreign multi-national?

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: We shall take the suggestion of the hon. member into consideration.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: I have not had an opportunity to go through the statement. But I would like to know how far the plan of expansion the Government is undertaking will help to meet the shortage of essential drugs that is there in the country. It is not only a question of antibiotics, but throughout the country there is a shortage of essential, life-saving drugs, and it is these multi-national corporations which are holding the country at bay by sending these drugs underground.

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: This particular question does not relate to the main question asked.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: No, Sir. I seek your protec-

tion. I want to know whether the expansion has taken this into consideration. How is it not relevant?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): May I be permitted to make an attempt to clarify the situation so far as the hon. member's question is concerned?

It is a fact that here and there are scarcities of essential drugs, not always but sometimes... (*Interruptions*) When I say this I say this with a sense of responsibility. This pattern of scarcity of essential drugs is, I am afraid, likely to continue because of various factors which govern the entire production pattern of essential drugs. It has a historical background also. It is also a fact that we are trying to get the source of bulk drugs increased; we are increasing our research and developmental activities. It will take some time. Within a short time, as the hon. Member demands from us, I am afraid all the problems cannot be solved.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it has been decided to set up a unit of the IDPL in Orissa and if so when will it be taken up?

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: There is no such proposal.

DR. RANEN SEN: A little while ago the hon. Minister stated how the public sector is being boosted and how production in Rishikesh will be increased. May I know whether a small firm was taken over about four years ago in Calcutta, Smith Stanistreet and if so whether they contemplate nationalising the whole enterprise instead of simply taking over the management and sitting over it? Is there any programme to do so?

SHRI C. P. MAJHI: At present we have no such programme; we have given some loans.