

Expansion and Diversification of Drug Firms

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*293. DR. RANEN SEN:
SHRIMATI PARVATHI
KRISHNAN;

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

(a) the scheme, if any, drawn for expansion and diversification of foreign and Indian drug manufacturing companies;

(b) what concrete steps have been taken to implement that scheme; and

(c) what is the response of foreign drug companies towards the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) to (c). Keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals a new drug policy, to achieve a systematic and balanced growth of the drugs industry, is being evolved. In the meantime, two of the important recommendations of the Committee relating to the production programme—viz., (i) identification of bulk drugs required for production of 117 essential formulations, listed by the Committee, and (ii) assigning relevant lines of production for the public sector, Indian sector and open to all, including the foreign sector has been drawn up and made known to the industry. Government expects good response from all the sectors of the drugs industry after the total drug policy has been announced. From 1-4-1975, as many as 128 applications, including 22 applications from foreign companies with foreign equity exceeding 40 per cent, have been received.

DR. RANEN SEN: In view of the fact that the government does not appear to accept one of the main recommendations of that committee, namely, taking over of multi-national corporations in the drugs and pharmaceutical industry, may I know whether any

pressure or persuasion is being exercised on the multinational corporations who up till now were only producing low tonnage high value medicines, neglecting the development of medicines for certain types of tropical diseases which are not found all over the world? May I know whether this is being done so that the multi-national corporations may go into diversification of production of such medicines which are required for leprosy, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): The hon. member was a member of the Hathi Committee. I congratulate him and the Hathi Committee for the good work they have done in analysing the problems. But while suggesting remedies, you have mixed up many things and created more confusion than was prevailing before. Therefore, please do not think that it was a court award. It was a committee appointed for our guidance. You have submitted the report and we are examining it. Please do not jump to any far-reaching conclusion. The report of the committee is yet to be taken up for consideration by the Cabinet sub-committee.

DR. RANEN SEN: I never asked whether the recommendations are being implemented or not. I wanted to know whether the foreign companies are being persuaded or pressurised to go into the research of drugs which are necessary for our tropical diseases like leprosy. That was my simple question

SHRI P. C. SETHI. The hon. member did make a remark that it is presumed that government is not going to accept the recommendations of nationalisation of multi-nationals. Hence I had to give that preamble to my answer. As far as leukoderma and leprosy are concerned, I would like the hon. member to visit the Hamdard Dawakhana where they have found a complete cure for these diseases. They have progressed very well and I had occasion to visit it a couple of days ago. So far

as foreign companies are concerned, we have already chalked out a programme of dilution. We have made three lists. One list is open for all, one list is meant for public sector only and one list is for the Indian sector.

DR. RANEN SEN: May I know, out of these 117 essential drugs that the government has decided to take up, how many are being prepared by foreign companies and how many by Indian companies?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Before answering that, I would like to add that apart from unani and ayurveda, there is an anti-leprosy drug called DDS produced by *Borroughs Wellcome*. About this question, out of the 117 drugs, 43 are tablets and capsules. 39 are injections and 35 are miscellaneous. These are being produced by the foreign sector, the Indian sector and the public sector to a very great extent.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over—

DR. RANEN SEN: How many foreign sectors and how many Indian sectors?

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Schemes for Foreign Tourists visiting India

*284. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what schemes like the "Travel as you like" scheme introduced in September, 1975, will be introduced for the foreign tourists as well as Indian tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): There is no proposal at present.

Agreements with Foreign Companies for Crude

*291. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreements have been signed during the current year regarding crude oil with foreign companies; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines regarding the quantum and price of crude along with the names of the foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). The following arrangements have been made for the import of crude oil during 1976:

Name of the Country	Quantity in million tonnes
UAE	1
Saudi Arabia	1.1
Iraq	2.1

Indian Oil Corporation have entered into agreements with the National Oil Companies of these countries for such imports. Supplies from Iran during 1976 are expected to be at the level of 2 million tonnes as during 1975.

Requirements of import of crude oil during 1976 in the case of the Madras Refinery are covered in terms of their long term agreement for crude supplies from Iran. Supplies of Arabian crude to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation's Refinery are covered under the crude supply agreement with Exxon.

There is an accepted convention not to disclose the terms on which oil purchases are made from foreign countries