

was possible by supply of U. S. arms during these disturbances they have been canvassing other countries to sell arms to them for carnage in East Bengal at nominal price.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

**Demand of Drugs during Fourth Plan**

\*155. SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the rate at which the demand for drugs is expected to increase during the Fourth Plan period ; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to meet the increase in demand ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The demand for drugs is expected to increase during the Fourth Plan period at the rate of about 8 to 10 per cent per annum.

(b) The Development Council for Drugs & Pharmaceuticals has given in 1970 certain revised assessments of the demand for various drugs and pharmaceuticals during the Fourth Plan period. These assessments are reviewed by Government from time to time in consultation with the Directorate General of Technical Development and the Ministry of Health. On the basis of this review, expansion of existing units or creation of new capacities is licenced on merits after receipt of applications from manufactures. Imports are also resorted to meet urgent demands wherever necessary. Imports of certain essential bulk drugs and intermediates are canalised through State Trading Corporation.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : May I know whether Government has any concept of self-sufficiency and, if so, what is the time-horizon in which the Government is intending to achieve this self-sufficiency ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI) (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : Out of the total production of Rs. 250 crores, the import content is hardly Rs. 12 crores and to that extent we are also achieving self-sufficiency as far as this is concerned.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : I wanted to know whether Government wants to eliminate it within a foreseeable future. That was my question.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : As far as the production of pharmaceuticals is concerned I would like to tell him that we are not so advanced in the research of basic drugs and on account of that fact, sometimes we have got to import. Also I would like to point out in this connection that while we are importing Rs. 12 crores worth of drugs, we are, at the same time, also exporting Rs. 8 crores worth of drugs.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : I want to know whether it is within the knowledge of the Government that there is a serious public complaint that some of the medicines being imported by the STC are being charged very high prices by the STC and some raw materials which have been imported by it are lying in the stock because they have been in excess of the demand.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : When the Drug Price control was introduced, certain drugs went in shortage and on account of that import of certain drugs had to be resorted to, through the STC. The drugs which have been imported through the STC are pooled with indigenous production and are being sold to various manufacturers either by STC or through IDPL at pooled prices which apply to indigenous production also it is likely that on account of high costs of indigenous production in some basic drugs the price on account of pooling is higher than imported price.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : What about the second part of my question ? Some raw materials imported by the STC are lying in stock because they are in excess of the demand here.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Some basic drugs like tetracycline for instance are lying in stock because at one time there was shortage

but after the import, the indigneous production also increased and certain tetracycline stock is lying with the IDPL.

**SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI :** There are certain medicinal drugs which are imported from foreign countries ; they are converted and sold in different names in our country. Due to that there is a big gap in prices. May I know from the Minister whether Government is going to produce such kinds of drugs and medicines in this country so that there could be no conversion of those drugs and medicines.

**SHRI P. C. SETHI :** I have said that so far as formulations are concerned, they are in thousands. So far as the basic drugs and the essential drugs are concerned which are required in our country, I may say, most of them are being produced in the country.

**MR. SPEAKER :** May I point out that during last week, and even during the last session, we had not been able to do more than eight to ten questions per day ? So, I shall be limiting the number of supplementary questions to three or at the most four or sometimes even less, so that we may cover more questions. Those Members whose questions do not come up and who do not get their turn feel quite uneasy about it. So, we shall have to increase the total number of questions that we cover. That is why I have to be strict in many ways, in judging the relevancy, in giving lesser time for supplementary questions and so on. I would request hon. Members not to press me very much for supplementary questions, because we shall have to cover more questions.

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** मगर अध्यक्ष महोदय, सभी सवालों के लिए एक ही नियम नहीं हो सकता है क्योंकि कोई सवाल बहुत महत्वपूर्ण होते हैं ।

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** It depends on the importance of the question.

**MR. SPEAKER :** The hon. Member makes every question so important. Let

the hon. Members promise me that they would not stick to that habit.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** May I know whether it is not a fact that the IDPL which imported drugs worth Rs. 2.5 crores, that is, bulk drugs recently, finds it very difficult to sell them because the drug manufacturers were not coming forth to lift the stocks, although it is a fact that the total turnover of the drug industry in this country exceeds Rs. 200 crores a year ? It is also a fact that the STC while procuring these basic drugs does not go in for global tender or global enquiries, but enters into private negotiations, with the result that they pay a much higher price than they ought to ?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI :** As far as certain basic drugs are concerned, for instance, tetracycline, they were imported, and after the import, they are lying in stock with the IDPL. As regards the basis of the STC's purchases, I have no idea just now.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :** What steps are they taking to dispose of them ?

**SHRI P. C. SETHI :** We are making all possible efforts to sell them.

#### Protest Note to Nepal Against Pakistan's Propaganda Against India

\*156. **SHRI S. M. KRISHNA :**  
**SHRI P. GANGADEB :**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (VIDESH MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have protested to Nepal in regard to Pakistan's propaganda in Nepal against India ;

(b) if so, the nature of propaganda made against India by Pakistan in Nepal ; and

(c) the action taken by Nepal Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (VIDESH MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a)