

carriers is so strong that I do not think it will be worth-while for Air India to undertake it.

**Proposal to reduce the Prices of
Drugs for the Treatment of
Heart Patients**

*715. SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to reduce the prices of drugs for the treatment of heart patients; and

(b) the names of the companies which have agreed to reduce the prices in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, AND PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) and (b). Even though no specific proposal in this regard is presently under consideration, the prices of some of the important cardiac drugs were substantially reduced following the promulgation of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970. Some of the leading firms who have thus reduced their prices are given below :

M/s. Warner Hindustan Ltd.
M/s. John Wyeth.
M/s. Hoechst Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
M/s. Deys Medical Stores Ltd.
M/s. Alkali & Chemical Corporation of India Ltd.
M/s. German Remedies Ltd.

SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA : It is seen from the answer of the hon. Minister that six firms have reduced the prices of drugs. May I know the names of the other firms which have not either reduced the prices, or refused to reduce the prices ?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : I have mentioned five names by way of illustration. I have with me a long list of the other firms which are willing to reduce the prices of cardiac drugs.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister can supply him the list.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

**Steps to resolve the Disputes in the
Andhra Bank Ltd. and the
State Bank of India,
Andhra Pradesh**

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SNQ. 4. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any further steps to resolve the disputes in the Andhra Bank Ltd. and the State Bank of India in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) and (b). On the assurance of the Labour Ministry on 26.4.72 that the specific issues and points raised by A. I. B. E. A. will be looked into by the Labour Ministry with a view to finding out a solution, the agitation by thh A. I. B. E. A. against the State Bank of India has been withdrawn.

2. As regards the Andhra Bank Ltd., efforts are continuing to bring about an early amicable settlement between the parties.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA : The same answer was given when I raised this matter by way of a Calling Attention Notice on the 3rd of last month. Since then the employees have met the Minister of Labour several times. Yet, no settlement has been arrived at, so far as the Andhra Bank is concerned. This is the paddy harvesting season when the paddy is going to the market. The traders are not prepared to purchase because they have no money with them as the bank is not advancing money. So, almost the entire economic activity has come to a standstill. May I know what steps the Finance Ministry are taking to solve this problem of the continued strike by the employees of the Andhra Bank ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : I share the concern of the hon. Member that it has taken a sufficiently long time to settle the dispute.

The Labour Minister is personally involved in the negotiations that have been going on and for the last two days he has met the representatives of the management as well as the employees. Now the negotiation has reached a very crucial stage and there is only one point on which settlement has to take place. I can only say that with the very serious efforts that the Labour Minister is personally making in this dispute there will be a settlement soon.

His second question was about the role of the Finance Ministry in the settlement of the strike. The Finance Ministry is helping the Labour Ministry to bring about a settlement. When these disputes become what they are, as in the case of the Andhra Bank, it requires time to sort it out. I could only appeal to the hon. Member, he is a Member of Parliament...

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : Is there any doubt about it ?

SHRI PILOO MODY : Otherwise, he will not be 'honourable'.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : This is a very serious dispute. If all the representatives of the people, if hon. Members would prefer that expression, if they had used their good offices in Andhra itself where that particular Bank is located, both on the employees as well as the management, and used the good offices of the Andhra State Government also, probably this difficulty which the Labour Ministry and the Finance Ministry are facing would not have been there.

Sir, the third point which the hon. Member made is as to what is the main cause of the dispute. The main cause of the dispute is whether Bank Employees' Union, which is an all-cadre union in which both the workmen, the staff, as well as the officers are members can negotiate on behalf of officers. This is a major dispute. This dispute is being referred to the Labour Ministry for solution. The consequential disputes out of this are now at the point of discussion.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA : The dispute is not a major one. As far as I know, the dispute is only a small one and that is the recognition of the right of officers joining

the union. It is not a question of emoluments or salaries that is involved. It is a small thing.

Secondly, as a Member of Parliament, I have also got the responsibility. When I went there last month, after the Calling Attention notice was discussed here, I find there is an agitation from both the sides. We are receiving bunches of petitions from both the parties. This time, after the 1971 Mid-Term elections to Lok Sabha, the Members of Parliament belonging to the ruling party have got more responsibility because we are directly elected on the basis of the policies of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. The people are now coming to us, to the party in power, for each and everything. He should not think that I am not going there and not doing my best to settle the matter. I am doing my best to settle the dispute.

I request the Government to settle the dispute early. Both the parties and the public are suffering. The matter should be settled in the interest of the development of the industry in Andhra and in the country as a whole. The banking industry should be properly developed.

This is a vital issue. Even after two months, they have not yet settled it. Therefore, I would request the Prime Minister also to associate the Labour Minister to settle the matter immediately, at the most before the end of this week. The people are suffering. Only then the conditions in Andhra State will be normalised. That is my request to the Government.

I want to know what steps they propose to take in the settlement of the matter. Yesterday also, the All-India Bank Employees' Association have given notice to close all the banks in the entire State of Andhra. Let the hon. Minister take the initiative and settle the matter in one or two days and satisfy the public.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The hon. Member has raised only two points. He has said that it is a small issue. I do not agree with him. It is a big issue. The question of an all-cadre union is coming up for the first time. It is a major issue and that is why there is delay in the settlement of the dispute.

Then, he has asked what is the further effort that the Finance Ministry is making to settle the matter I have already indicated that The Labour Minister till 10 30 yesterday was trying to solve the matter so that the Short Notice Question could be answered in a positive manner So the efforts are continuing

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA I understood the Minister to say that, as a result of these discussions the area of difference has been narrowed down practically to only one point of difference now May I know from him whether it is a fact that this point of difference which is holding up the whole agreement arises out of the fact that the Labour Minister has recommended that, pending his arbitration to which both parties have agreed, pending his arbitration, for which there is no time limit as to when he will give his decision, the Andhra Bank employees' union will not sponsor the cases relating to any officers of the Bank while the management according to his recommendation will be free after the 30th June to discuss matters relating to officers with any union or any organisation which the management may choose, and if that is so, why is it not possible to iron out this matter simply by the Labour Minister agreeing that this arbitration decision also will be forthcoming by the 30th June, so that both the parties are put on an equal footing instead of favouring one against the other ?

SHRI K R GANESH The hon Member is correct when he says that the area of dispute has been narrowed down to one particular question which the hon Member has stated

In reply to his second question, whether the Labour Minister would be able to iron out this difference, I would suggest that it will not be possible for the Labour Minister to, probably, give his decision on the major question of all cadre union by 30th June Since out of all these discussions the area of disagreement has been narrowed down to one specific issue, I hope the Labour Minister, with his dynamism and with his care for the welfare of the workers, would be able to persuade the management to come to some sort of an agreement on this particular question also

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA He says that the Labour Minister may not be able to give his decision by 30th June In that case, the management also should not be permitted after the 30th June to deal with any union they like Let both the parties be treated equally It does not matter whether the decision comes before or after the 30th June But why should the two be put on separate footings ?

SHRI K R GANESH I have expressed the hope that the Labour Minister, with his dynamism, will be able to iron out the difference

SHRI B S MURTHY It is more than 60 days since the strike began After all, by the Minister's own statement, there is only one issue Pending the decision on this issue from arbitration, are there no possibilities of bringing the management and the employees together to run the banks ?

SHRI K R GANESH The strike has been on There has to be a formula to call off the strike That is exactly what is being done—negotiations are going on

SHRI S M BANERJEE *rose—*

MR SPEAKER Mr Jyotirmoy Bose—
Call-attention

SHRI S M BANERJEE I should be allowed to ask a question at least, Sir Call-attention on that was not allowed

MR SPEAKER No, please There are two today

SHRI S M BANERJEE People have to behave like Mr Kachwal.

MR SPEAKER It is not proper for you to say that (*Interruption*)

आप जैसे माननीय सदस्य ऐसी बात करें तो दुःख होता है ।

श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी मुझे भी दुःख मालूम होता है कि शार्ट नोटिस क्वेश्चन पर केवल तीन क्वेश्चन हुए हैं ।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Only three Short Notice Questions in two months !

MR. SPEAKER : This is not Speaker's choice. I can pass it on.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : We can have a meeting on this later on.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bill on Tax Treaties with Foreign Countries

*701. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Bill in Parliament during the current session to enter into tax treaties with foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) No, Sir, Provision already exists in section 90 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 empowering the Central Government to enter into tax treaties with foreign countries for the avoidance or relief of double taxation of income.

(b) Does not arise.

बरोनी उर्वरक कारखाने का निर्माण कार्य

*708. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या पेट्रोसियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बरोनी उर्वरक कारखाने का निर्माण कार्य बन्द पड़ा है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में क्या उपाय किए गये हैं अथवा करने का विचार है ?

विधि और न्याय तथा पेट्रोसियम और रसायन मंत्री (श्री एच० आर० गोकले) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) और (ग). प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Instructions issued by Air India to charge Fares according to New Fare Structure

*712. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has issued instructions to all its offices to charge fares according to new fare agreement among the Members of International Air Transport Association; and

(b) if so, the reasons for charging new fares when all the concerned Governments have not approved new fare structure ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The new fares which are being applied by Air India from 1st April, 1972 were unanimously agreed to by all International Air Transport Association (IATA) carriers at their Traffic Conferences and were intended to be applied from April 1, 1972. The Government of India has approved of these fares as they were not considered to be unfavourable.

(ii) IATA had sent cables to all member-airlines requesting that although approval of certain governments might be delayed, the new fares should be brought into effect from April, 1, 1972.

As anticipated by IATA, several governments have already, during April 1972 itself, approved the new fares with the result that the fares between India on the one hand and the Far East, Australia, North & South America on other have already come into effect and are binding on all IATA carriers.