

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOBIND VERMA): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b). At the time of the formulation of the Fourth Plan, no major or medium irrigation project had been contemplated in Dadra and Nagar Haveli; and no provision was therefore made in this sector in the Fourth Plan of the Union Territory.

Later on, the Government of Gujarat sent up proposals for the Damanganga Project under which irrigation is proposed for an area of 6880 hectares in Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The project was approved in December, 1972 and is being constructed by the Government of Gujarat. Rs. 2 lakhs was provided in the Annual Plans towards meeting the share cost of the Union Territory.

In the minor irrigation programme, administered by the Ministry of Agriculture, a provision of Rs. 12 lakhs was made in the Fourth Plan for Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Against this an amount of Rs. 8.04 lakhs was incurred by the end of 1972-73. The anticipated expenditure in 1973-74 is Rs. 5.90 lakhs.

श्री रामभाई पटेल : क्या दादरा नगर हवेली में कोई पाताल कुवां बनाने की योजना है ? यदि है तो वह कब शुरू होगी ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): Under minor irrigation schemes, some proposals have been made. The question regarding the number of tube-wells to be sunk has to be addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture. We in the Irrigation Ministry are only concerned with major and medium irrigation projects and the answer that I have given relates to major irrigation projects like the Damanganga project,

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Apart from the schemes sent by the Government of Gujarat for which Central assistance was given, may I know whether the Central Government themselves have any plans for giving further facilities in terms of providing irrigation water or tube-well water facilities for the Centrally administered area of Dadra and Nagar Haveli?

DR. K. L. RAO. I have mentioned in the answer that for the Dadra and Nagar Haveli area, the Damanganga project has been sanctioned. The benefits from the project cover the Gujarat area also but Nagar Haveli being very near the site of the project or the site of the dam, it will be the first area to be benefited. Apart from this, there is no other major irrigation project.

श्रीषधियों का प्रायास

*467. श्री चन्नाह प्रधान: क्या पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री यह बताने कि कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) भारत ने गत दो वर्षों में कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा की श्रीषधियों का प्रायास किया और

(ख) विदेशी श्रीषधियों का प्रायास कब तक बन्द करने की स्थिति में होगा ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) The total value of drugs and pharmaceuticals including drug intermediates imported during the last two years have been as follows:

1971-72	Rs. 35.09 crores
1972-73	Rs. 30.89 crores

(b) In the drugs and pharmaceuticals industry, which is highly technology-oriented, it is extremely difficult for any country to become self sufficient, particularly because of the

diversity of products used. Besides, newer and more efficacious drugs are also developed abroad from time to time through continuous research and development efforts, which take time to be developed and produced locally. Efforts are, however, being made to develop the local drugs industry and to conduct research to produce drugs to meet our increasing requirements and avoid dependence on imports to the maximum extent possible.

श्री वनशाह प्रश्न : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि आयात होने वाली विदेशी औषधियों में से कितनी औषधियाँ सरकार अपने देश में बनाने या बनवाने पर विचार कर रही है ?

श्री बेवकान्त बहधरा : अभी जो दवायें हम इम्पोर्ट करते हैं उन में—रूब्रजोन, क्लोरामफेनीकोल पाउडर, ओक्सिटेट्रासाइक्लिन ऐंटिबायोटिक पाउडर, इन्मलिन सल्फाइडोमाइडीन, सल्फाइथाजीन, सल्फाफेनजोल, विटमिन बी-1 विटमिन बी-12, स्ट्रैप्टोमाइसीन सल्फेट का 1971-72 और 1972-73 में इम्पोर्ट कम हुआ क्योंकि हम इन को बना रहे हैं लेकिन पूरी तरह से बनाने में सक्षम लगता है। पांचवी पंच-वर्षीय योजना में इस का प्रबन्ध किया गया है कि हम जितनी दवायें अब बना रहे हैं उस का दुगना बनायें इस से उन की इम्पोर्ट भी घट जायेगी।

श्री वनशाह प्रश्न : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अब तक कितनी औषधियाँ विदेशों से आयात की गईं और सरकार ने कितनी औषधियों का आयात बन्द कर दिया है ऐसी कितनी विदेशी औषधियाँ हैं जिन को सरकार अपने देश में बनाने में असमर्थ है ?

श्री बेवकान्त बहधरा : मैं बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि 1971-72 में हम एक साल में क्लोरामफेनीकोल पाउडर 168 लाख मंगाने थे जो अब घट कर 91 लाख आ गया है। 1971-72 में हम अक्विसीटेट्रासाइक्लिन 1 करोड़ 7 लाख इम्पोर्ट करते थे अब वह 2 लाख आ रहा है, टेट्रासाइक्लिन पाउडर

हम 1 करोड़ 16 लाख मंगाने थे उस का इम्पोर्ट घट कर अब 36 लाख रह गया है। इसी तरह से और चीजों की इम्पोर्ट में भी कमी हुई है।

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: On this question of drugs, the conscience of the Ministry has been drugged. It is difficult for us to share the pessimism which the Minister has shown in reply to part (b) that it is not easy for us to be self-reliant. Whereas some life-saving drugs have to be imported, the list he has enumerated happens to be a list of drugs which even the smallest country in Europe does not import. Since I would not like to tell the country that my conscience—and yours also—is drugged..

MR. SPEAKER: Not mine.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: You are also representative of the people.

MR. SPEAKER: Not mine; it is only yours.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: May I know from the Minister whether he is satisfied that with the vast talent being available in this country, sufficient monies are being spent and sufficient facilities are being made available to our scientists to substitute those drugs and manufacture them in India? If so, how much extra monies have been spent in the last two years?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The drugs I mentioned are bulk drugs. Certainly some of them can be made here because they do not need any sophistication. But I mentioned also oxytetracycline. It is a sophisticated antibiotic. Tetracycline and streptomycin.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: The smallest country in Europe manufactures it.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: That is true. We are manufacturing on a large scale many items.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA: We are not a small country.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: There are small countries like Switzerland which

is one of the smallest countries in Europe but which has one of the biggest drug industries. In fact, a company like La Roche in a small country like Switzerland exports a lot of drugs to England and other countries.

There are certain countries which have specialised in this drug industry for over a number of decades. We are an old and large country, but we are comparatively new in this drug industry. So it will take some time. There is no dearth of talent here. We require not only money but also time to organise our talent for research and development.

SHRIMATI T. LAKSHMIKANTH-AMMA: The incidence of cancer is growing high day by day and, as the Minister said, new discoveries are being made from time to time and it becomes difficult to produce them in the given time. Now that there is a ban on the import of these lifesaving drugs, as in the case of cancer, may I know whether there will be a relaxation as far as these lifesaving drugs are concerned?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: I am not aware that there is a foolproof and radical cure for cancer, but, nonetheless, there is scope for import of certain sophisticated and specialised medicines with the approval of the Director-General of Health Services. The total value of these medicines, the most specialised and sophisticated drugs, including the drugs for cancer, come to about Rs. 80 lakhs. (*Interruption*).

AN HON. MEMBER: It is prohibited.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: I am not sure whether it is prohibited, but it is certainly restricted, and it has to be imported with the approval of the Director-General of Health Services.

श्री जय लिये: टी०बी०के०लिये सोडियम पी०ए०ए० वहुत महत्वपूर्ण दवा है। उस के लिये भी कच्चा माल होता है मेटा प्रमीनी फेनाल, वह पहले कुछ विदेशों से आता था और कुछ हिन्दुस्तान आर्गेनिक केमिकल बनाती था।

उस का आयात कम ही गया है और जो 9 रु० में आता था उस का दाम हिन्दुस्तान आर्गेनिक केमिकल ने 38.50 तक बढ़ा दिया है इस साल से। इसलिये टी बी की ड्रग्स में बढ़ी कमी हो गई है। इस के बारे में मैंने शार्ट नोटिस क्लेयचन पूछा था, लेकिन मंत्री महोदय ने उस की भाना नहीं। वह इस प्रश्न के जबाब में ही बतला दें कि टी बी की ड्रग्स की जो कमी है, खास कर सोडियम पी० ए० एस० और मेटा प्रमीनोफेनाल, जो उसका कच्चा माल है, इन की कमी को दूर करने के लिये सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है ?

श्री बेकनाथ बख्सा: सदस्य महोदय ने जो सलाह दी है उसके बारे में जरूर गौर किया जायेगा।

श्री जय लिये: मैंने कोई सलाह नहीं की है। मैंने सीधा सवाल किया है। दाम मेटा प्रमीनोफेनाल के घटाये जा या नहीं ?

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: May I know whether it is a fact that the value of imported drugs by foreign firms is very high and on that account the prices fixed by the Price Control Board are also very high as in the case of Indometacyn, fagy and some other drugs, and if so, I would like to know what steps the Government wants to take to bring down the prices of these drugs in the interests of the consumer as well as in the interests of saving foreign exchange.

MR. SPEAKER: It is extending the scope of the question. (*Interruption*).

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: I would like to slightly amend the answer I gave to Mr. Madhu Limaye. (*Interruption*). The matter has been taken up with the HOC and it has been reduced to Rs. 33. (*Interruption*). It has been reduced.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Sir, he wants me to repeat the question. May I know whether it is a fact that the value of the imported drugs by foreign firms....

MR. SPEAKER: I have not been able to follow. I have passed on to the next Member.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: . . . is very high and the prices also are very high as in the case of Indometacyl, fagyl, and so on, and if so, what steps the Government want to take to bring down the prices of these drugs in the interest of the consumer as well as in the interests of saving foreign exchange? That is my question; and it has not been replied to.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: There are two aspects of this question. If the prices of basic drugs and intermediates has gone up, naturally it is likely to be reflected in the price of the pharmaceuticals produced, but the only answer seems to be that we have to produce these materials the prices of which are very high abroad. Therefore, this is being looked into by a committee which we are appointing and of which perhaps the hon. Member, Mr. Chavda, is going to be a member. We will look into this.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: To appreciate the cut in the import of medicines, I would like to know what is the total percent cut in the medicines as a whole—he just gave a few items in which there is a cut—and whether regulation of the prices is also made because in Indian markets the prices of the drugs differ 18,000 times to 8 times compared to the American and European markets?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: I am extremely sorry. I do not have the figures in percentage. I can give the figure of imports.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: That does not help us. He can have notice and give us the percentage.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The present import of drugs constitutes 10 per cent of the total turnover. Out of that, about Rs. 10.50 crores worth of imports are canalised through the STC and the rest through individuals.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: That does not lead us anywhere. Government claims that there is reduction in import. The House will appreciate it if it knows how much reduction we have made in the imports and in terms of price how much we have reduced.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: The question of price based on the report of the costing department is under consideration of Government. At present, the imports are 10 per cent of the total turnover. I have to find out the reduction in terms of percentage.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: I want to know whether the Indian drug manufacturing industries sought certain protection from Government vis-a-vis imported drugs, and if so, what they are, either by way of tariff or other barriers and what is the reaction of the Government to their demand?

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: I do not know whether they have sought any protection, but certainly they want that their case should be considered preferentially.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Many life-saving drugs have been produced in our public undertakings like IDPL. I want to know to what extent this has lessened our dependence on foreign countries and when the country is likely to reach the stage of self-sufficiency in this regard.

SHRI D. K. BOROOAH: It is a fact that the production of a large number of important drugs, particularly life-saving drugs like antibiotics in IDPL and Hindustan Antibiotics has considerably made us self-reliant in terms of those drugs. But we have to expand them. In fact, there is a plan for expansion of IDPL as well as HAL in the fifth plan.